

Hafa Adai!

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CNMI vulnerable to measles outbreak

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI is reportedly prone to a measles outbreak because it is surrounded by countries that have experienced outbreaks.

Because of where the CNMI is located, a measles outbreak is a possibility so the Commonwealth Health Center is working on an action plan in the event of one, according to Warren Villagomez, Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness program director.

"Of course, we're vulnerable. You have all the potential measles countries around us, [the] Philippines is one, Asia, I mean all over Guam, Americas Samoa, we're like right in between everyone," she said.

However, Villagomez said that the CNMI has a high vaccination rate

See CNMI on Page 4

San Nicolas changes mind, now works as general counsel for IPI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former CNMI attorney general and Tinian mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas changed his mind and accepted the job as general counsel for casino operator Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

Saipan Tribune learned that San Nicolas yesterday started his first



San Nicolas

day as IPI general counsel.

Saipan Tribune asked comments from San Nicolas, but he instead forwarded the questions to IPI.

IPI in a statement said San Nicolas has agreed

See SAN NICOLAS on Page 4

Weeping, Iran supreme leader prays over general slain by US

By NASSER KARIMI and JON GAMBRELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Weeping amid wails from a crowd of hundreds of thousands of mourners, Iran's supreme leader on Monday prayed over the remains of a top Iranian general killed in a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad, an attack that's drastically raised tensions between Tehran and Washington.

The targeted killing of Iranian Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani already has seen his replacement

vow to take revenge. Additionally, Tehran has abandoned the remaining limits of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers in response to the slay-

RELATED NEWS

► **Blowback: Iran abandons nuclear limits after US killing. **PAGE 16****

ing while in Iraq, the parliament has called for the expulsion of all American troops from Iraqi soil.

The developments could bring Iran

closer to building an atomic bomb, set off a proxy or military attack launched by Tehran against America and enable the Islamic State group to stage a comeback in Iraq, making the Middle East a far more dangerous and unstable place.

Adding to the tensions, President Donald Trump threatened to demand billions of dollars in compensation from Iraq or impose "sanctions like they've never seen before" if it goes through with expelling U.S. troops.

Soleimani's daughter, Zeinab, di-
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BUSINESS

The Hybrid Shop located along Beach Road, Garapan promotes community culture as it encourage and promotes diversity and inclusiveness.

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ASIA

Australia's government on Monday said it was willing to pay "whatever it takes" to help communities recover from deadly wildfires that have ravaged the country.

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LIFE & STYLE

Real-life stories ruled the Golden Globe TV honors, as Olivia Colman's portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II, Michelle Williams' turn as Broadway star Gwen Verdon and the nuclear disaster drama "Chernobyl" won top honors.

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Local

Spaeth is Federal Engineer of the Year nominee

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Travis Robert Spaeth, who is the Safe Drinking Water manager of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, is one of 21 nominees vying for the Federal Engineer of the Year Award of the National Society of Professional Engineers in Government.

Spaeth, who is a federal engineer appointee of the U.S. Environmental Protection in the CNMI, was recently recognized by the EPA as its 2020 Engineer, which qualified him, along with engineers from different federal agencies, to vie for the 2020 NSPE Federal Engineer of the Year plum. The award recognizes engineers employed by a federal agency worldwide.

"Getting nominated to be this year's 2020 NSPE Federal Engineer of the Year is one thing, but actually receiving the award and being selected as EPA 2020's Engineer is really kind of a big deal to me as it recognizes my efforts [after Super Typhoon] Yutu and the whole push to put the CNMI on the path of recovery," he said.

"As Commonwealth Utilities Corp. project manager then and now in my new position at BECQ, it feels like it is some kind of a 'feather in your cap' situation and it is reassuring that we are doing something right," he added.

The 2020 NSPE Federal Engineer of the Year recognizes leadership, highest standard of conduct, technical excellence, and community service. According to Spaeth, one is nominated by a supervisor,

which submits a package that includes qualifications and the last 18 months of work.

"The two main things that happened for the last 18 months was, first, I was a big part of the CUC 24-hour water for the entire island before Yutu and, second, the recovery efforts after Yutu hit the CNMI...but I can't take credit for all as a lot of people were there and we worked together very well," he said.

"Twenty-four-hour water has been a goal for many years and I was a pretty big player in the development, management and changing the way we run the water system in CUC. Then [Super] Typhoon Yutu hit and immediately we lost 24-hour water but we were able to bring it back much faster and more effectively than Soudelor," he added. Typhoon Soudelor hit the CNMI in August 2015.

Part of Spaeth's work at CUC was mainly to restore the water supply after Yutu to make sure everyone had water in their homes. "Even though it wasn't drinkable yet, we made sure that homes have water for even the smallest things like flushing the toilet. I recall just going into 'disaster engineer mode'—keeping track of the day, where we are and where we are headed," he said.

"The big part of our job was because we lost power. We still needed to bring in generators to the most effective spots. [It was the Federal Emergency Management Agency] that brought generators to where the best spots were for that. It was really an inter-agency coordination af-

terwards," he added.

Spaeth is on his sixth year of working in the CNMI. "I'm a U.S. Public Health Officer to begin with and, historically, the U.S. Public Health Service has filled positions of need in hard-to-fill locations such as the CNMI. The engineers are generally funded by EPA and I'm on assignment at BECQ through EPA, reporting directly to BECQ administrator Eli Cabrera," he said.

"I was with CUC in 2010 and left in 2012 after being commissioned in the PHS Indian Health Service in the States for four years. Then I was requested to come back by CUC in 2016 and eventually EPA requested if I could be considered for the work in BECQ which is a higher position, which coincides with our plan to stay on Saipan long term," he added.

Spaeth said that transitioning from CUC to BECQ was not hard, as both jobs uses his knowledge of the water system. "I recently took over for retired Capt. [Derek] Chambers at BECQ and run the Safe Drinking Water Program as well as double as the technical adviser for BECQ and provide assistance to the CNMI Coastal Resource Management Office. The Safe Drinking Water Program regulates and oversees over 70 drinking water systems in the CNMI that includes resorts and a few apartments that have their own drinking water systems, bottled water companies, and, of course, CUC. ...We regulate them based on the Safe Water Drinking Act."

"We also run the Mariana



Travis Robert Spaeth is keeping his eyes on big goals—maintaining 24-hour water all over the CNMI and drinkable water from the tap to help the community save money.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

among other things," he added

Spaeth's work at BECQ ultimately entails ensuring safe water drinking compliance. "...there is a lot of data input so we are safekeeping laboratory results and putting it in a data base that will eventually get uploaded to the safe drinking water information system or SDWIS which is what EPA headquarters and the federal government requires to make

Islands Operator Association where we regulate and test operators to certify them and we make sure that they move forward with their continuing education. We also manage the 'well' program which includes all the public and private wells across the island by issuing permits on the new wells and managing flow of data to make sure we are not over pumping the aquifer

CNMI experienced driest December in 2019

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The CNMI should pay close attention to Australia, in light of the deadly fires that are rummaging the country at the moment.

While bushfires have always been experienced in Australia, the fires have been the worst this time, and it is being attributed to a phenomenon called the Indian Ocean Dipole ushering a hot and dry period. Dec. 18, 2019 also set a new temperature record, an average maximum of 41.9C.

Similarly, last month, the Marianas experienced a record low monthly rainfall of only 1.46 inches, making it one of the driest Decembers on record, based on National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration's National Weather Service.

"The CNMI has experienced one of the driest Decembers on record, and the current trend and near-term forecast offer no relief and suggest that we may enter into hazardous fire conditions very soon," NOAA's Robbie Greene explains.

This would be an earlier entrance into "fire season" than CNMI is generally prepared for or equipped to deal with. On the islands, the core of the dry season is March, April, and May.

Without any rain in the latter days of January and on February, the CNMI could experience a long fire weather season. "We are still at least several days away from fire weather watches, but since March, April and May are the core of dry season and we are already approaching red flag criteria, this could be a long fire weather season," the NOAA area forecast discussion read.

"Wildland fires are a relatively normal occurrence during the islands' dry season.

sonal) precipitation, then we would not get a break from the heat/aridity, and would therefore be subjected to one of the longer fire seasons on record."

Last year, the CNMI transitioned into the dry season early in January and with it came a number of wildland fires. In May, a brush fire even engulfed hectares of vegetation in the Evergreen area in Mt. Tapochau that took a night to contain.

"We are still at least several days away from fire weather watches, but since March, April and May are the core of dry season and we are already approaching red flag criteria, this could be a long fire weather season," the NOAA area forecast discussion read.

Wildland fires are a relatively normal occurrence during the islands' dry season.

IAO wants to open learning Chamorro to everyone

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Indigenous Office Affairs wants to preserve the Chamorro language by offering more upcoming programs this year to help the youth understand the Chamorro language, in hopes of reviving the almost extinct language.

"A lot of modern things that are starting to take over, versus when we were young, you know, we didn't have iPhones, laptops, and stuff like that. We were so focused, traditional lifestyle," said IAO director Roman Tudela.

He said you don't have to

be Chamorro to learn the language and his office will open the program to everyone willing to learn the language.

According to Tudela, there are many cases in which younger parents don't speak to their children in Chamorro which leads to the Chamorro language to potentially be extinct. Tudela wants to reverse that by offering programs such as having elders who are fluent in the language teach younger children who want to and are interested in learning and understanding the Chamorro language.

Tudela hopes to have lessons at different youth centers in each village.

sure that we have safe drinking water," he said.

"We are trying to implement all the historic data into a new data base system to help us monitor and ensure the safety of all drinking water programs in the CNMI," he added.

As for the future, Spaeth is keeping his eyes on big goals—maintaining 24-hour water all over the CNMI and drinkable water from the tap to help the community save money.

"I have a big vested interest in keeping this 24-hour water for the islands and as far as I know we are running on 24-hour water and the only time CUC shuts water is to do repairs...certain parts of the island you can drink water from the tap and some parts water from tap remain salty but over time I believe we can improve that as all homes should have good water to come out of the tap. People from Rota drink water out of tap so why can't we have that on Saipan? Long-term goal is to make people comfortable with that and it's doable," he said.

"Right now, people pay \$2 or so for a 5-gallon jug but if you are paying \$2 to CUC, you get about a thousand gallons...next step is to keep building better so we can start pumping less water out of the ground and that will improve the aquifer over time...in theory, if CUC makes improvements and other water systems are regulated and managed properly, this hopefully make water quality better and would help everybody to save money," he added.

The 2020 NSPE Federal Engineer of the Year Awards ceremony will be held at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 14, 2020.

"I really want to thank the community for being very supportive of what we do, and participating in our events and supporting our journey," said Tudela. "As we go forward, I strongly suggest everyone who has been supporting us to reach out to their peers, other families on the other side to be a part of this journey that we're going through. This is going to benefit everybody this is this is not just for me."

Tudela also co-sponsors an online page called Ketungu Chamorro on www.mycnmi.com, where they teach basic Chamorro greetings, words, and phrases.

CPA complains to FAA about 'unacceptable' chopper conduct

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds disclosed yesterday that CPA has already submitted a complaint to the Federal Aviation Administration about the concerns of noise pollution and flying at near ground level of a red helicopter providing tour services on Saipan which behavior she

described as "unacceptable and must stop."

Asked for comments about netizens expressing anger on social media about noise and dangers posed by the helicopter to the community, King-Hinds agreed that CPA indeed received a series of complaints about the conduct of Vertical Aviation which is in the business of providing helicopter tour services.

As of press time yesterday,

Saipan Tribune was still trying to get comments from Vertical Aviation.

King-Hinds said residents from the Papago and surrounding areas have complained about being disturbed by the noise pollution caused by the helicopters.

She said the most recent complaint was raised by members of the general public this weekend with clear evidence that the helicopter tour pilots were flying at near ground level and, at some point, landing on public roads amidst traffic posing safety risks to the community.

CPA's jurisdiction does not extend beyond the airports, said King-Hinds, adding that airspace is regulated by the FAA but there are no firm rules for how long or high a helicopter must fly.

She cited Federal Aviation Regulations Part 91 that regulates general operating and flight rules.

The chairwoman said regulations state that no person may operate an aircraft over congested areas of a city, town or settlement below an altitude of 1,000 feet above the highest obstacle within a horizontal radius of 2,000 feet of the aircraft and an altitude of 500 feet above the surface over non-congested areas



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This photo of Vertical Aviation's red helicopter was taken on the road going down Suicide Cliff in Marpi.

except over open water or sparsely populated areas.

She said regulations state that in those areas, the aircraft may not be operated closer than 500 feet to any person, vessel, vehicle, or structure.

"This FAR however states that helicopters may be operated at less than the minimum altitude provided by the rule

as long as the operation is conducted without hazard to persons or property," King-Hinds said.

The chairwoman said while CPA does not have the authority to regulate this activity, CPA is equally concerned about the safety of the community and is being proactive in addressing the problem.

She said aside from submitting a complaint to the FAA about the conduct of the operator, CPA is also working with its legal department to determine if there are other measures that CPA can take to rectify the situation which includes terminating its agreement with operator should the behavior continue.

Ultimately, King-Hinds said, this is a legislative issue, as raised in previous discussion with members of the Legislature.

"CPA, however, will not pass the buck," said the chair, disclosing that CPA is currently looking at model ordinances and statutes in other similarly situated cities and municipalities to draft legislation that would address the concerns of the general public and impose license fees specific for such activity, clear attitude requirements over certain areas, and an imposition of hefty penalties and fines for violations.

She said CPA expects that a draft legislation will be forwarded to the respective Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee, and Commerce and Tourism chairpersons in both houses of the Legislature for their consideration and public vetting by the end of next week.

Chiropractor services offered at LITS

CNMI Chiropractor will now be accepting appointments on adjusting and consultation beginning Jan. 10 until Jan. 13 from 8am to 6pm (depending on what day your appointment is) at The Life in the Sun Church in Gualo Rai.

Let Dr. Roger Martinez and CNMI Chiropractor staff help you heal your back pain by properly aligning your spine and help your body heal without surgery or medication.

Chiropractic services is widely known as one of the safest drug-free, non-invasive therapy that's available to help the body heal itself. Manipulation is used to help restore joints that are restricted by tissue injury

caused by a traumatic event, repetitive stress, or even sitting down without proper back support.

The goal is to let the natural art of gentle chiropractic adjustments allow the natural flow of energy all throughout the nervous system so that the body can balance and heal naturally.

Their clinic hours will be on Friday, Jan. 10, from 8am to 12pm; Saturday, Jan. 11, from 1pm to 6pm; and Sunday, Jan. 12, from 1pm to 6pm.

New patient exam and consultation for 30 minutes is \$50 and chiropractic adjustments for 15 minutes is \$45.

For more information call (670)789-1170 or (670) 483-2225. (Justine Nauta)



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BRINGING*From Page 1*

partment of Land and Natural Resources, through its Division of Fish and Wildlife, to monitor the åga, through nest searching and surveys, to keep track of the trend over time whether its population is increasing, decreasing, or remaining stable.

"Our major goal is to keep track of the åga population so that we know how imperiled it is," Fandel said. "Over time, in the past, it has been declining

really rapidly. We have been tasked with trying to figure out why that is."

Endemic to the Marianas, the åga originally were found only in Guam and Rota. They are no longer in Guam, making its population on Rota even more important as it is the last remaining population of the crow.

The åga is a member of the Rota ecological community, where each member provides services to the island's ecosystem in general.

"So this fight is a fight to preserve the ecological identity of

the Marianas," Fandel added.

"The more we're able to do that, the more intact things will be, the more what makes the Marianas unique will remain, what makes it function ecologically will remain. These are all very good things for people."

Their team is currently doing a release of first-year birds, or 1-year-old birds. They collect eggs and nestlings which are then raised for a year and a half by a Rota-stationed team from the San Diego Zoo, before they get released in the wild.

"We released seven birds in

the end of November and then [this] year, we are having another cohort, which will be the third release," Hubl said.

"We did one prior last year. That was 10 birds in 2018, 13 birds in 2019, and then 13 or 14, this year. These are birds that mostly came from wild eggs that were then reared in captivity."

The åga is a member of the Corvid family which is known for being extremely intelligent, which makes them academically of interest to people who are into studying animal intelligence.

One of the main foundations of the Åga Project is the monitoring of nests because that leads to banding opportunities, which adds data points to the team's data set of known birds.

This data helps in tracking the population of the åga, particularly where they are going, who they are associating with, and if they are nesting.

The team is particularly grateful to the people of Rota, particularly the land owners who have allowed them to conduct surveys in their properties.

"We very much appreciate the land owners that have allowed us to come on to their properties and allowed us to do surveys. It is very helpful to the project. Land owners that have taken us in and let us use their property. It's been amazing," Hubl said.

"This project is totally a

partnership," Fandel stressed, emphasizing that while their team from the University of Washington work in collaboration with the San Diego Zoo, it is the people of Rota who are helping them access the places that they need to, to help save the åga.

As the team looks forward to yet another full year of nest searching, monitoring, and bird release, Fandel could not stress enough the pride of having the åga, and the significance of bringing back up its population.

"The åga is Rota's crow. It is the Marianas Crow. It doesn't belong anywhere else. It is the bird for the people of Rota, for the people of the Marianas," said Fandel.

To get updates on the Åga Project, visit <https://www.facebook.com/MarianaCrow-RecoveryProject/>.



In this image taken from video, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, left, openly weeps as he leads a prayer over the coffin of Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in Iraq in a U.S. drone strike on Friday, at the Tehran University campus, in Tehran, Iran, Monday, Jan. 6, 2020. AP

WEEPING*From Page 1*

rectly threatened an attack on the U.S. military in the Middle East while speaking to a crowd of hundreds of thousands in Tehran that stretched as far as the eye could see. Iranian state TV put the crowd size at "millions," though that number could not be verified.

"The families of the American soldiers in western Asia ... will spend their days waiting for the death of their children," she said to cheers. Iranian state television and others online shared a video that showed Trump's American flag tweet following Soleimani's killing turn into a coffin, the "likes" of the tweet replaced by over 143,000 "killed" with the hashtag #severerevenge.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei himself prayed over the caskets of Soleimani and others slain in the attack. Khamenei, who had a close relationship with Soleimani, wept at one point during the traditional Muslim prayers for the dead. The crowd wailed.

Soleimani's successor, Esmail Ghaani stood near Khamenei's side, as did Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and other top leaders in the

Islamic Republic. While Iran recently faced nationwide protests over government-set gasoline prices that reportedly killed over 300 people, Soleimani's mass processions has seen politicians and leaders across the Islamic Republic's political spectrum take part, temporarily silencing that anger.

Demonstrators burned Israeli and U.S. flags, carried a flag-draped U.S. coffin or effigies of Trump. Some described Trump himself as a legitimate target for Iran's revenge.

Mohammad Milad Rashidi, a 26-year-old university graduate, predicted more tension ahead.

"Trump demolished the chance for any sort of possible agreement between Tehran and Washington," Rashidi said. "There will be more conflict in the future for sure."

Ghaani made his own threat in an interview with Iranian state television aired Monday. "God the Almighty has promised to get his revenge, and God is the main avenger. Certainly actions will be taken," he said.

Markets reacted Monday to the tensions, sending international benchmark Brent crude above \$70 a barrel. The Middle East remains a crucial source of oil and Iran in the

past has threatened the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of all the world's oil traded passes.

Ghaani, a longtime Soleimani deputy, has now taken over as the head of the Revolutionary Guard's Quds Force, an expeditionary arm of the paramilitary organization answerable only to Khamenei. Ghaani has been sanctioned by the U.S. since 2012 for his work funding its operations around the world, including its work with proxies in Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen.

Those proxies likely will be involved in any operation targeting U.S. interests in the Mideast or elsewhere in the world.

Already, the U.S. Embassy in Saudi Arabia warned Americans "of the heightened risk of missile and drone attacks." In Lebanon, the leader of the Iranian-backed militant group Hezbollah said Soleimani's killing made U.S. military bases, warships and service members across the region fair game for attacks. A former Iranian Revolutionary Guard leader suggested the Israeli city of Haifa and others could be targeted should the U.S. attack Iran.

"We promise to continue down martyr Soleimani's path as firmly as before with help

of God, and in return for his martyrdom we aim to get rid of America from the region," Ghaani said.

The head of the Guard's aerospace program, Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, suggested Iran's response wouldn't stop with a single attack.

"Firing a couple of missiles, hitting a base or even killing Trump is not valuable enough to compensate for martyr Soleimani's blood," Hajizadeh said on state TV. "The only thing that can compensate for his blood is the complete removal of America from the region and taking away their evil from the oppressed people of the region."

On the nuclear deal, Iranian state television cited Sunday a statement by Rouhani's administration saying the country would not observe the nuclear deal's restrictions on fuel enrichment, on the size of its enriched uranium stockpile and on its research and development activities.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson specifically urged Iran to "withdraw all measures" not in line with the 2015 agreement that was intended to stop Tehran from pursuing its atomic weapons program.

Villagomez said that CHCC personnel have also undergone training for different scenarios in case of an outbreak in the last month.

"We discussed protective measures, how to protect our healthcare workers, how to protect our patients, protect the community from being affected. There were different discussions; there were a lot of good discussions," he said.

Villagomez said the action plan is similar to action plans used for prior viruses that have threatened the Marianas, like the Ebola virus, to bring fa-

cialization to personnel who will perform in case of an outbreak in order to effectively save lives.

"When we get to situations like this, we call it a hazard action plan so basically what we're doing is one size fits all. Basically, different disease, pretty much...the layers and the elements could be slightly different but the approach is one vision, to protect and to save lives," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the immunization program is working on conducting outreach in the community to cater to adults and have been conducting school outreach to cater to the youth.

Vaccines are also available at the CHCC outpatient pharmacy. However, the pharmacy doesn't administer immunizations for children.

The pharmacy administers immunization shots for adults from 8:30am to 6pm on weekdays and from 8:30am to 5pm on weekends.

Feel free to call 236-8798 for additional information.

SAN NICOLAS*From Page 1*

to assume the position of general counsel of IPI, and that he will work on a part-time basis initially to unwind his law practice to ensure his clients' needs are attended.

"We welcome his arrival and are confident about his future success with the new role at IPI," IPI said.

Attorney Phillip J. Tydingco's last day as IPI general counsel was last Dec. 13.

At a hearing last Dec. 12, Tydingco informed U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona that San Nicolas called him five minutes before the hearing to tell him he is reconsidering accepting the job as IPI general counsel.

Tydingco said that IPI hired San Nicolas as his replacement last Dec. 6 and that San Nicolas would soon be filing his appearance in the cases that he (Tydingco) previously handled.

San Nicolas served as CNMI attorney general from 2012 to 2014. He served as mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan from January 2015 to January 2019.

After his term as mayor expired, San Nicolas opened his law firm on Saipan that focuses on civil law, family law, criminal defense, probate law, and corporate law.

San Nicolas is a graduate of Mitchell Hamline School of Law in Minnesota in 2003. He is licensed to practice law in the CNMI Superior and Supreme Courts, U.S. District Court for the NMI, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

IPI objects to over \$30K in attorneys' fees filed by 7 workers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is opposing the request for payment of over \$30,000 in attorneys' fees and costs made by seven workers who are suing IPI and its contractor and subcontractor over accidents at the worksite of IPI's casino-resort project in Garapan.

In its opposition to attorneys' fees filed last Friday before the U.S. District Court for the NMI, IPI, through counsel Kelley M. Butcher, said plaintiffs' request for over \$30,000 in fees is simply unreasonable and unsustainable in this case.

"Any award of fees should be substantially less than the exorbitant amount plaintiffs seek to recover," Butcher said.

The seven workers, through their two counsels, have requested the court to award them \$31,801 in attorneys' fees and \$156 in costs in connection with their motion to compel.

At a hearing last Dec. 12, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the workers' counter-motion to compel IPI to respond to their discovery requests. Manglona ordered IPI to respond to all discovery requests.

The judge also granted the workers' motion to impose sanction on IPI and ordered the company to pay attorneys' fees to the plaintiffs/ workers for bringing the motion to compel.

CHCC: Low vaccine coverage in adults

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is urging adults to come in and get vaccinated due to low vaccine coverage rates in adults.

According to CHCC spokesperson Zoe Travis, CHCC has seen a low vaccination coverage rate among adults.

"We have a good vaccination coverage rate among the youth. Our issue is with adults, especially immigrants who come from countries where they did not need to be vaccinated," she said.

Travis said only about 50% of the adults in the CNMI are updated in their vaccinations compared to the 90% of the youth.

Travis said the CHCC immunization program has successfully increased the coverage in the youth by partnering

In plaintiffs' motion for attorneys' fees and costs filed in court recently, attorney Bruce Berline and the New York-based lawyer Aaron Halegua said they were forced to spend considerable time researching and responding to IPI's discovery objections, participating in teleconferences, opposing IPI's motion for a protective order, and preparing their own motion to compel.

Berline and Halegua said their request for an award reflecting 72.74 hours of attorney time and 11.98 hours of paralegal time is reasonable.

They said that their proposed hourly rates of \$300 for Berline and \$417 for Halegua are all reasonable.

Berline claimed he had spent 4.44 hours or for a total amount of \$1,332. Halegua claimed he had spent 68.3 hours or for a total amount of \$28,481.

In IPI's opposition, Butcher said plaintiffs have failed to show the reasonableness of their hourly rates or the reasonableness of the number of hours claimed to have been expended in connection with the discovery dispute.

Butcher said plaintiffs only submitted the declaration of their counsel concerning the reasonableness of their attorneys' hourly rate.

"That is simply insufficient evidence," said Butcher, adding that the rates charged by Halegua are based on factors other than the rates in the CNMI.

This case, the IPI lawyer said, does not present any

with schools, in contrast with the adults.

"We are pretty well covered, especially with measles, which can have deadly consequences for young people," she said.

The immunization program is working on conducting outreach in the community to cater to adults.

The pharmacy offers walk-in adult vaccinations—they have all the vaccinations you need, according to Travis. Vaccines are also available at the CHCC outpatient pharmacy. However, the pharmacy doesn't administer immunizations for children.

The pharmacy administers immunization shots for adults from 8:30am to 6pm on weekdays and from 8:30am to 5pm on weekends.

Feel free to call 236-8798 for additional information.

unique considerations or skill which cannot be found in the CNMI and therefore need specialized off-island counsel.

She noted that plaintiffs' hourly rate for their paralegal is based on New York rates and not CNMI rates.

She said plaintiffs also have not submitted any declaration from their paralegal establishing his qualifications and skill.

Butcher said there is no explanation as to why a paralegal in the CNMI was insufficient or lacked the com-

petence to render paralegal services needed for this case.

She said the court's minute entry establishes that the judge awarded attorney fees only for plaintiffs' counter motion to compel.

Butcher said Manglona did not award any fees in connection with plaintiffs' opposing IPI's motion for a protective order or motion to stay.

Yet, she said, plaintiffs seek recovery of fees associated with their opposing and responding to IPI's motion for a protective order.

"Those fees should be disallowed as they are beyond the scope authorized by the court," Butcher added.

The plaintiffs—Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Quingchun Xu, and Xiyang Du—are suing IPI, MCC and MCC's subcontractor Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC.

The plaintiffs, who are all Chinese nationals, are suing the defendants for alleged forced labor in violation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Re-authorization

Act, forced labor in violation of the CNMI Anti-Trafficking Act, negligence, and liability for employees of subcontractor.

The workers alleged, among other things, that they were forced to work long hours for below minimum wage under extremely dangerous conditions at the casino-resort worksite.

In its response to the lawsuit, IPI, through counsel, said any wage claims by the plaintiffs are barred because they voluntarily illegally entered the CNMI to work.

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Precinct 4 transitions to maintenance as projects get completed

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the road safety and visibility enhancement project completed, including the rehabilitation of several recreational facilities, the community, as well as tourists, would be able to even better enjoy the north of Saipan so much more.

"One of our biggest completions was the road safety projects," Precinct 4 Rep. Joel Castro Camacho (R-Saipan) said.

In coordination with the Department of Public Works and the Saipan Mayor's Office, the Road Safety Visibility Enhancement Project was completed, paving the way for a safer road experience for both motorists and pedestrians.

This included putting reflectors on concrete polls, repainting islands, overall brightening up the area, collecting trash on road shoulders, and beautification.

"It gives our community a sense of pride. A lot of people

have said that they have driven up north and they cannot believe how unbelievably clean it is, how bright it is," Camacho said.

Aside from this, mural projects were started not just to promote tourist growth in the north, but to instill community pride.

"A lot of other regions in the world have used mural art to restore the integrity of communities. It does not only brighten up the areas, but it gives us a sense of pride," Camacho added.

There are three mural strips: in Tanapag, on the Achugao Bridge, and near Kensington Hotel.

"The Achugao Bridge has inspiring words for our community. If you're having a bad day, you just look at the wall and remember that there are better times. For Kensington, we wanted to depict cultural images, botanical, birds of paradise, underwater life, and tourist attractions like the Bird Island."

Partnership became key, especially with the more than 30%

cut on Camacho's office allocation last year due to austerity. With the help of the community, Paupau Beach was also cleaned, and the Tanapag Beach Pavilion renovated and beautified, with the help of Ursula's Garden.

Now that a lot of the community projects in the north are nearing completion, and are in the maintenance phase, Camacho shifts focus on ways to implement programs that are beneficial to the youth.

"I am working with coach Joe Diaz of the Rollers [Basketball] Association to start a basketball exhibition match, and, hopefully in the coming months, to do traditional fishing teaching lessons."

Camacho also said that there are still work to be done.

"We have a lot of abandoned buildings in Precinct 4. We don't want to have dilapidated eyesores around the precinct. Little by little, there's still a lot of work to do. We collaborate and we want to make this a real



Staff members of Precinct 4 Rep. Joel Camacho (R-Saipan) are water-blasting the bridge by Kensington Hotel in San Roque. The murals are also part of the precinct's beautification program, to instill in the community a sense of pride and to encourage more tourists to visit the northern part of Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Small craft warning issued

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6am today, Jan. 7, as trade winds remain strong with speeds up to 25 knots expected to produce hazardous conditions for operating small craft.

Based on the information

Tinian, and Rota through this morning.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is advising the general public and inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, to avoid sailing in these conditions as small craft can be blown off course or capsized. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: January 6, 2020

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) from the United States Department of Commerce-National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP). The document was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to assess the continued implementation of the CRCP.

More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the following website: <https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/compliance/>

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan. Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fourteen (14) days, starting on January 7, 2020 and ending on January 21, 2020, in order to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.



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of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: January 6, 2020

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the United States Department of the Navy regarding the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS)

More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the following websites: <https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2019 DEC 10 U N465 1467 ENCL-TO CNMI-DCRM-trn-ltr-10-DEC-19.pdf>

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan. Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

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Junson Construction Mongolia team in front of the Imperial Palace Hotel and Casino.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mongolian construction workers impress at IPI site



Project briefing at the casino-hotel construction site in Garapan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Since starting at the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC construction site in Garapan, staff of Junson Construction Mongolia have demonstrated highly skilled workmanship, professionalism, and well-organized and disciplined performance on the job.

tribution to safety of the construction site is immeasurable.

It is proven that the construction team from Mongolia is one of the main reasons for the successful continuation of the casino-hotel project and owners are proudly acknowledging their valuable contributions.

(PR)

Thanks to their participation in Imperial Pacific project's implementation, the construction of Imperial Palace Hotel and Casino has significantly progressed.

Today, Junson Construction became the leading construction company that is responsible for the overall project implementation and supervising different companies on the project.

Specifically, Junson Construction is training and providing employment opportunity for more than 150 local construction workers.

In order to participate in the project, Junson Construction trained their workers to advance their skills and workmanship, which means their workers are not individually hired personnel, but full-time staff that are trained and disciplined to follow company supervision, guidance, regulations, and standards introduced and respect the company's values and vision.

The project owners are amazed with the Mongolian construction workers' efficiency. Moreover, their con-

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Magnetic Gray Metallic,
Est. Mileage: 12,234, Stock #U19114R
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Blizzard Pearl White, Est. Mileage: 8,800
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Electric Storm Blue, Est. Mileage: 13,820
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Super White, Est. Mileage: 26,819
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NMC info session this Thursday

Individuals who are interested in furthering their education are encouraged to attend Northern Marianas College's free Information Session this Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020. The event will cover information on the admissions application process, financial aid, class registration, and academic programs and services.

The info session will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the Olympio T. Borja Library at the college's As Terlaje campus. The library is located in Building O of NMC's campus.

Attendees of the information session will qualify to have their application fee

and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming Spring 2020 semester, a savings of about \$75.

NMC's Spring 2020 semester will begin on January 21, 2020. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at www.marianas.edu.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis in elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management (emphasis in accounting); associate of arts degree in business, associate

of applied science degrees in business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), associate of arts in liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, and social work), associate of science in nursing, natural resources management, associate of applied science in criminal justice, and hospitality management.

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming Fall 2019 semester or to apply for admission, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. (PR)

Tickets available for MCS'A Night with the Knights'

Mount Carmel School's AlumKnight Association reminds interested AlumKnights and community members that tickets are available for purchase for "A Night with the Knights."

"A Night with the Knights" is MCS' AlumKnight Association's annual fundraiser. The purpose of the event is to raise funds for academic programs and services for current students, facility improvements, and AlumKnight events.

The fundraiser is scheduled for Feb. 1, 2020, in the Magellan at Pacific Islands Club Saipan from 6pm to 10pm.

"The best part about "A

Night with the Knights" is bringing AlumKnight classes and their families together," shared AlumKnight Association president Norisa Sn. Camacho. "Mount Carmel School has a major community on island and our goal more than anything is to continue to foster that community among our current students, AlumKnights, and stakeholders."

This year's "Night with the Knights" will feature a school yearbook montage, raffle prizes, music, dancing, and more.

The event will also include the announcement of the 2020 AlumKnight of the

Year and the 2020 Class of the Year. These presentations recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of Mount Carmel School graduates. Criteria for both awards are available on the MCS website, www.mountcarmel-saipan.com.

Tickets for "A Night with the Knights" are \$50 per person. AlumKnights interested in purchasing a table can contact Priscilla Dela Cruz at atpresdelacruz@gmail.com. Tickets are available at the school's Business Office. To reserve a ticket or for more information email presdelacruz@gmail.com. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Navy training in open ocean, Radio Barrigada

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct open-ocean exercises at the following coordinates: 13°26'N/145°08'E and 13°42'N/144°36'E on Jan. 7, from 7am to 4pm. Live fire will be utilized for this training. All vessels are advised to remain clear of a three nautical mile radius of these coordinates.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will also conduct embassy reinforcement training on Jan. 9 at Radio Barrigada, from 6pm to 11:55pm. These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. The public should be advised that this training will be accompanied by the use of blanks and residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. (PR)

NAP schedules

The Nutrition Assistance Pro-

gram Office will be distributing benefits and re-certifying households whose case records end with "1." Following are the schedules for the ensuing days:

Date	Day	Case Record Ending with:
Jan. 6, 2020	Monday	"3"
Jan. 7, 2020	Tuesday	"4"
Jan. 8, 2020	Wednesday	"5"
Jan. 9, 2020	Thursday	"6"
Jan. 10, 2020	Friday	"7"
Jan. 13, 2020	Monday	"8"
Jan. 14, 2020	Tuesday	"9"
Jan. 15, 2020	Wednesday	"0"

For more information, contact the NAP office at 237-2842 or 237-2843 or visit its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/nap.cnmi>. (PR)

Guam advisory on income tax filing

The Department of Revenue and Taxation in Guam is currently preparing to update its programming and processing systems for the 2020 income tax filing season, which is for tax year 2019. DRT will not be accepting individual or corporate income tax returns for

Navy training in Dandan-Malojloj, open ocean, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training from 11am to 11:55pm on Jan. 6-9 in Dandan-Malojloj.

The U.S. Navy will also conduct live-fire training from 7am to 4pm on Jan. 6-10 at Warning Area 517.

The U.S. Navy will conduct open ocean exercises from 10am to 9pm on Jan. 7-8 at the following coordinates: 13°29'N/144°25'E. The public, fishermen, and boat operators are advised to remain clear within five nautical miles of the training area.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

It is recommended the pub-

lic, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. (PR)

Ukulele classes at JKPL

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library registration for beginner and intermediate ukulele class is ongoing. It is open to children ages 8 years or older and adults. The total cost for eight class sessions is \$50. Ukulele classes are held at the public library in partnership with ukulele instructor Larry Lee and children. Sessions are set to begin on Jan. 7, 2020, every Tuesday from 4:30pm to 5:30pm.

The JKPL ukulele class is based on "First come; first paid." Students must provide their own ukuleles and a folder to hold music sheets (plastic sheet protectors and a 3-ring binder are recommended). Parents/guardians must sign a liability waiver Form on behalf of their participating children and must adhere to public library policies and procedures. For questions regarding ukulele class, call Celina Foreman or Caitlyn Crisostomo at

235-7315/7322 during regular library hours. Class dates are subject to change, unless otherwise specified. (PR)

Guam PTAC sets federal contracting workshops

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free workshops to the public for January 2020. Workshops run from 9am-10am at the University of Guam in the Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero Business and Public Admin Building, Margarita Perez & Jaime Tuquero IT&E Lecture Hall, Room 131 (unless otherwise specified):

■ **Jan. 9:** Cybersecurity: Federal Contractor Responsibilities—Cybersecurity is a national security issue. We will discuss what Federal contractors can do to make sure they are complying with DOD requirements with respect to keeping data protected.

■ **Jan. 16:** SBIR/STTR Programs—The Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs encourage

small businesses to engage in Federal Research and Development that has the potential for commercialization. We will explain the programs and show how innovators can get involved.

■ **Jan. 23:** Government of Guam Procurement—The Guam PTAC will explain Government of Guam Procurement, where to find opportunities, and how to submit bids.

■ **Jan. 30:** DLA Internet Bid Board System—The DLA Internet Bid Board System provides the capability to search for, view, and submit secure quotes for DLA supply RFQs, RFPs, and IFBs. The Guam PTAC will guide you through the process of setting up an account and navigating the system.

For Project Management Professionals, Guam PTAC workshops may count toward your annual Professional Development Unit goals!

Register at <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>, or call/email Therese at 735-2552/ admin@guamptac.com. Walk-ins are welcome. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JANUARY 07, 1999

Gov't effects 13.4% cut for second quarter

To deal with the projected decline in revenue collections, the financially-troubled government has begun implementing a 13.4 percent cut in the second quarter allotment to departments and agencies, but lowered the budget slash for the Public School System to help it cope with the growing needs of the education sector. While the rest of the agencies received a uniform reduction in the quarterly advise, allocation for PSS was chopped by 9 percent to avert a potential disruption in its operations. The reduced spending level for each department and agency took effect beginning January in line with the revised revenue estimates for Fiscal Year 1999.

Legislature ready to adopt master plan

Legislators are expected to pass a proposed bill to set into motion the recently drafted master plan of various Capital Improvement Projects on the island seen as its only hope to recover from the worsening economic crisis. Members of the Senate yesterday met with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and other administration officials to discuss the mechanism on how to utilize some \$154 million in funds guaranteed under the Covenant

Agreement. Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez said they are ready to support the proposal which will identify local funds to match the federal assistance on Section 702 projects.

JANUARY 07, 2000

DOF-House tiff over reimbursement may reach court

Differences with the administration on which expenditures made by lawmakers can be shouldered by the government may reach the court after the House of Representatives yesterday failed to pass a bill amending the "public purpose" law. In its final session before adjourning sine die, the 18-seat chamber failed to meet the required three-fourths votes to approve the measure passed by the Senate in its last session on Tuesday as only 13 members were present. SB 11-161, offered by Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes, would have accepted reimbursements of expenditures incurred by some members of the Legislature that have been questioned by the Department of Finance.

Coalition adopts Caucus Resolution

The bipartisan coalition comprised of members from all three parties has adopted a Caucus Resolution reaffirming their commitment to work "with shared vision of leadership and policy" beginning on the first day of the 12th NMI Legislature. Adopted on Dec. 30, 1999, the resolution says that the group believes that the new House leadership, reflected in the officers and heads of committees, "is the best that the legislature has to offer and will lead us in the new millennium and new time of prosperity for everyone who lives and works here." "We desire to publicly acknowledge our support for the new leadership and express

our confidence that the officers of the House stated herein are truly the right people for the job and will lead the House with dignity, honor and zeal," according to the resolution.

JANUARY 07, 2005

Administration looking at options for La Fiesta

The Babauta administration is confident that it will manage to run the La Fiesta shopping complex without tapping into the CNMI government's revenues and funds from the federal government. The CNMI Executive Branch plans to pay its obligations involving La Fiesta and continue operating the mall using rental fees and other funding sources, Gov. Juan N. Babauta said yesterday as he and Northern Marianas College signed the final memorandum of agreement transferring the facility from NMC to the central government. "The repayment plan for this is how we use the facility from hereon," Babauta said.

Chinese tourist not found as search ends

The search for the missing tourist who reportedly drowned off Hidden Beach came to an end Thursday, with authorities unable to locate the individual. Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric F. David said that the search conducted by the Boating Safety Section officers was extended one day at the request of the victim's family, who arrived on Saipan shortly after hearing the news of their missing relative, 25-year-old Li Yong. Li is the Commonwealth's first drowning victim of the year. On Sunday, Li was sightseeing with a group of Chinese tourists and tour guide Lu Yong Jian at Hidden Beach, located at the north side of Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo when he went missing.

Man arrested for assault and battery, disturbing the peace

The Department of Public Safety arrested Inarrio Bisanen for disturbing the peace and assault and battery at a gas station in Chalan Piao last Jan. 3.

Police received a 911 call reporting an assault and battery incident at the gas station at about 10:30am that day. Police were dispatched to the scene.

Nearby police units in the area, arrived on scene and met with the caller. The caller told police that they witnessed a gas attendant get assaulted by a customer, who turned out to be Bisanen. Police then met with the victim, and immediately noticed that the vic-

the parking lot and confirmed the suspect as Bisanen.

He was transferred to the Department of Corrections

where he was booked and detained.

DPS highly encourages the public to call 911 anytime to

report an emergency. Our officers are here to help you. (PR)

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9D156	MAZDA 6 SPORT 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$7,000	\$19,995
9D170	CX-9 SPORT 2.5L 5WGN 6EA SOLD	\$7,000	\$19,995
20D004	MAZDA 3 SPORT 2.5L 4 DOOR SEDAN	\$4,000	\$19,995
20D007	MAZDA 3 SPORT 2.5L 4 DOOR SEDAN	\$4,000	\$19,995
9D156	MAZDA 6 SPORT 2.5L 4 DOOR SEDAN	\$7,000	\$21,995
20D002	MAZDA 3 GT 2.5L LEATHER, SUNROOF	\$7,000	\$21,995
9D114	MAZDA 6 GT 2.5L 4SDN TUR SOLD TRANS	\$6,000	\$20,995
19D199	CX-5 SIGNATURE 2.5L 5WGN 6ETA AWD	\$8,000	\$27,995
9D196	MX-5 CLUB 2.0L 2DR. 6MT S/TOP	\$9,000	\$29,995



0H014	ELANTRA SE 2.0L 4 DOOR SEDAN	\$7,000	\$15,995
0H017	ELANTRA SE 2.0L 4 DOOR SEDAN	\$7,000	\$15,995
0H023	ELANTRA SE 2.0L 4 DOOR SEDAN	\$7,000	\$15,995
20H033	ELANTRA 1.6L CD PLAYER, REAR VIEW CAMERA	\$7,000	\$15,995
20H001	ELANTRA 1.6L CD PLAYER, RE SOLD CAMERA	\$7,000	\$15,995
20H029	ELANTRA 1.6L CD PLAYER, REAR VIEW CAMERA	\$7,000	\$15,995
20H018	ELANTRA 1.6L CD PLAYER, RE SOLD CAMERA	\$7,000	\$15,995
20H013	ELANTRA 1.6L CD PLAYER, RE SOLD CAMERA	\$7,000	\$15,995
20H014	ELANTRA 1.6L CD PLAYER, REAR VIEW CAMERA	\$7,000	\$15,995
20H015	ELANTRA 1.6L CD PLAYER, RE SOLD CAMERA	\$7,000	\$15,995
9H099	KONA L 2.0L 5WGN 2WD 6EA SOLD	\$8,000	\$16,995
0H009	KONA L 2.0L 5WGN 2WD 6EAT	\$5,000	\$19,995
0H022	ELANTRA SPORT 2.0L TURBO AT, LEATHER	\$7,000	\$19,995
0H012	ELANTRA SPORT MANUAL TRANSMISSION	\$7,000	\$19,995
0H019	2020 ELANTRA SPORT AT SOLD	\$7,000	\$19,995
0H001	VELOSTER COUPE 1.6 L TURBO, SUNROOF	\$7,000	\$21,995
0H002	VELOSTER COUPE 1.6 L TURBO, SUNROOF	\$7,000	\$21,995



20M012	ECLIPSE CROSS 1.5L TURBO CVT 2WD	\$9,995	\$19,995
20M001	ECLIPSE CROSS 1.5L TURBO SOLD	\$9,000	\$19,995
20M002	ECLIPSE CROSS 1.5L TURBO SOLD	\$9,000	\$19,995
20M009	ECLIPSE CROSS 1.5L TURBO CVT 2WD	\$9,000	\$19,995
20M010	ECLIPSE CROSS 1.5L TURBO SOLD	\$9,000	\$19,995
20M011	ECLIPSE CROSS 1.5L TURBO CVT 2WD	\$9,000	\$19,995
20M012	ECLIPSE CROSS 1.5L TURBO CVT 2WD	\$9,000	\$19,995
20M008	OUTLANDER SE 2.4L 7 SEAT SOLD AT	\$11,000	\$21,995
0M008	2020 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER SE 2.4L 5WGN	\$7,000	\$24,995
0M023	2020 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER SE 2.4L 5WGN	\$7,000	\$24,995

USED CARS

STOCK#	MODEL	SAVINGS	PRICE
5HS655	2015 FORD TRANSIT	\$8,000	\$19,000
7HS784	2017 ACCENT	\$3,987	\$9,995
7HS781	2017 ACCENT	\$3,458	\$9,995
7HS779	2017 ACCENT SOLD	\$4,186	\$9,995
6HS682	2016 ELANTRA	\$3,845	\$9,995
4HS580	2014 MUSTANG	\$7,324	\$9,995
5HS667	2015 SEDONA SOLD	\$6,390	\$9,995
9H106-A	2017 HYUNDAI ACCENT	\$4,000	\$9,995
5HS704	2015 MITSUBISHI LANCER	\$6,000	\$9,995
3HS638	2013 FORD EXPEDITION	\$5,000	\$9,995
7HS796	2017 ELANTRA	\$3,945	\$11,995
7HS804	2017 LANCER SOLD	\$4,652	\$11,995
7HS806	2017 LANCER	\$5,162	\$11,995
18HS839	2018 MAZDA3	\$4,154	\$11,995
9M114-A	2015 TOYOTA PRIUS	\$3,000	\$11,995
6HS717	2016 SEDONA	\$4,255	\$12,995
6HS719	2016 SEDONA	\$4,390	\$12,995
6HS717	2016 KIA SEDONA	\$4,000	\$12,995
6HS714	2016 MAZDA 3 SPORT	\$4,000	\$12,995
18HS836	2018 MAZDA CX3	\$4,798	\$13,995
6HS695	2016 MAZDA 3 H/B	\$3,000	\$13,995
4HS709	2014 EXPLORE SOLD	\$4,576	\$14,995
6HS744	2016 MAZDA CX-5 TOUR	\$4,000	\$14,995
9H070-A	2017 MAZDA 3 SPORT	\$4,000	\$14,995
9D063-A	2017 MAZDA 3 SPORT	\$4,000	\$14,995
6R186	2016 MAZDA 6 TOURING	\$3,000	\$16,995
8R200	2018 MAZDA CX-5 TOUR	\$3,000	\$18,995
5HS735	2015 EXPEDITION	\$12,735	\$24,995

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Does Trump have any idea what he's doing in assassinating an Iranian general? We need answers. Now

The assassination Friday of Gen. Qassem Soleimani, a top security and intelligence commander in the Iranian military, raises significant questions, including whether the killing will achieve a discernible U.S. goal, and — even more troubling — whether it will push the U.S. and Iran closer to war. President Trump, in his fashion, took a victory lap, tweeting that Soleimani “should have been taken out many years ago,” the kind of bombast we’ve come to expect from this president. It’s also the kind of bombast that is more likely to make things worse than better.

To be clear, Soleimani — who was killed in a drone strike as he left the Baghdad airport — was a key architect in Iran’s destabilizing policies in the Middle East, and a force behind militias and terror groups that have killed and maimed countless civilians and soldiers, including U.S. troops and contractors. But as leader of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, he also was a general and an establishment figure in a foreign government, and targeting him for a rocket strike differs in scale and significance from assassinating the leader of a stateless terror group, such as former al-Qaida head Osama bin Laden or Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the former leader of Islamic State. Killing Soleimani is a direct attack on the power and command structure of a sovereign state.

Whether Soleimani’s killing will lead to a military confrontation with Iran is unknowable. Since the imposition of strict sanctions after Trump withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal, the economy of the Islamic Republic has withered, and it has faced serious protests at home. It may not be in a position to undertake a robust response, although it has proven time and again that it is able and willing to mount or support attacks through proxies.

Skirting debate over whether there was legal authority for the killing, Americans deserve several explanations. Why did Trump authorize the hit now, when previous administrations had refrained from killing Soleimani for fear that the repercussions from Iran could far exceed the possible benefits? What evidence did the government have that Soleimani was involved in planning an “imminent” attack, as Defense Secretary Michael R. Pompeo described it, that required an assas-

See TRUMP on Next Page



It's 2020 and let's start fixing things

It is 2020, the start of a new year, of a new decade, of revived hope, of renewed determination. Tradition says it's time for resolutions while reality says they seldom work. But there is, in fact, much amiss in this American nation we love, and we must fight back, peacefully, of course, but fight for the good under attack in so many ways, at so many levels.

You may think I am being trivial, but let's start with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, the bright new face of the Democrats who recently stood close to the cranky, old face of Bernie Sanders. She said ours was not an advanced society, that we were in fact headed toward fascism. I personally doubt she knows any more about fascism than she knows about climate change, immigration or economics, but she's on to something.

I mean, isn't she herself in combat with our society's advances? When she calls for a Green New Deal that would be a totalitarian wipeout of the economy, she does nothing for the cause of combatting climate change reasonably. Her calling the Electoral College a racist “scam” was incendiary fatuousness. When she talked of fascism, we know, she was referring to wily, wacko President Donald Trump and the supposed deploables who support him. A traumatizing fact is that our would-be Democratic and bureaucratic saviors have outdone his in their transgressions and follies, some quite possibly leading to indictments, trials and convictions.

The scariness is that the expanding, mindless left sums up so much that is amiss, even though there is a lot that's amiss that has nothing to do with politics. Let's have a list that at least touches on some, if scarcely a fraction, of the worries.

First, we are reversing our longevity records with so-called deaths of despair through drugs, alcohol and suicides. American life expectancy is no longer climbing. It is heading downward. Much of it started with working class men as jobs went overseas or were taken over by technology, but now it's most societal segments and is the foremost cause of death for people under 55. No small share of the blames goes to drug manufacturers that misled physicians that certain drugs used as pain killers were not particularly addictive when they were in fact crazily addictive, but drug smugglers are now a bigger enemy.

We are witnessing the demolition of the family. The issue is fatherless homes with too many fathers fleeing their responsibilities, women deciding to have children outside of marriage and divorce. Millions of children grow up with just one parent, and

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

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half of all children live without a father before the age of 18. The consequence for the children is more crime, a higher record of dropping out of school and a greater likelihood of impoverished adulthood, for starters.

Our public schools are not teaching children to read, at least not very well, and this is the single most important thing in their intellectual development. In 2019, a national test administered by an arm of the Education Department showed that just a little more than a third of students in the fourth and eighth grades were proficient in reading, a decline from 2017, the last time the test was given. A major cause is that too many teachers don't teach phonics – sounding out words – even though experts have known for years that's a crucial method.

Our public schools, meanwhile, also don't teach patriotism the way they used to; I live near a school, for instance, at which teachers were telling students not to stand for the Star Spangled Banner at ball games. It's true, too, that too many professors at too many universities bend too many student minds to their leftist ways of thinking in which Western Civilization is the source of all evil and America's exceptionalism is a grotesque sham. Confronting faults is different from defamation, and it's hardly unsurprising that many young people have no idea of what free speech entails or how capitalism has saved hundreds of millions from misery.

OK, I could go on about intellectuals telling us there is no truth, meaning that they aren't telling the truth when they say as much, or how moral values of different cultures are all equal, meaning that they are lacking in substantive content. But I will note, instead, that we are the strongest, wealthiest, still freest and, in terms of personal giving, most charitable nation in the world. We shall overcome.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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The crisis education of a president

The education of Commander-in-Chief Donald Trump began on Thursday, Sept. 3, 2015.

That's when Candidate Trump went on the TV show of conservative talk show host Hugh Hewitt, who began by asking about the perils posed by the commander of Iran's Quds Force, Gen. Qassem Soleimani. As the master of operations who for years spread terror and slaughter through proxy warfare in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen, Soleimani's roadside bombs killed hundreds of U.S. troops in Iraq.

"Are you familiar with Gen. Soleimani?" Hewitt began. But in 2015, Trump clearly didn't know who Hewitt was talking about. So he stalled: "Yes, but go ahead, give me a little, go ahead, tell me."

"He runs the Quds Forces," Hewitt helpfully hinted.

"Yes, okay, right," Trump replied. "The Kurds, by the way, have been horribly mistreated by..."

"No, not the Kurds, the Quds Forces, the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Quds Forces," Hewitt explained. Sensing it was sounding like Abbott and Costello's "Who's on first," Hewitt elaborated: "... the bad guys."

"Right," Trump opined, obviously still stalling. So Hewitt added some helpful context:

"Well, Soleimani is to terrorism sort of what Trump is to real estate," Hewitt explained. "... Many people would say he's the most dangerous man in the world..."

Trump got it. So he explained why none of that mattered: "You know, those are like history questions. 'Do you know this one?' 'Do you know that one?'" Trump's bottom line: "I think by the time we get to office, they'll ... be all gone."

But when Trump was inaugurated as president, Gen. Soleimani was still there, spreading terror. Trump ended up confronting Iran's apparent assault of an oil tanker, Iran's downing of a U.S. surveillance drone and Iran's apparent airstrikes on Saudi Arabian oil installations. When Trump ordered a

retaliatory military response -- but then cancelled it -- world commentators warned that Iran surely concluded Trump was just a paperless (see also: toothless) Twitter tiger.

Then, this week, on New Year's Eve, the whole world watched Iran shaming America and its president as an Iranian-supported militia, posing as protesters, stormed the U.S. embassy in Baghdad. They threw torches to burn parts of the visitor's building and actually broke into the embassy compound. America looked helpless. Worse for Trump, it looked like a rerun of the Benghazi, Libya, tragedy that Trump and other Republicans used to attack then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for letting America appear helpless -- as armed raiders assassinated a U.S. ambassador.

Provoked to the extreme by Iran, Trump issued the hardest-line order that should have surprised no one -- but seemed to surprise everyone. He ordered a U.S. military drone strike to assassinate Iran's commander, spymaster and politically feared and revered regional icon: Gen. Soleimani. Former presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama had rejected similar opportunities, concerned about the potential devastation it could unleash in the Middle East when Iran retaliates with proxy warfare, cyberwarfare and/or full-scale warfare.

On Thursday, Jan. 2, 2020, near Baghdad International Airport, a U.S. military drone strike blew up the two-car caravan carrying Soleimani and several Iraqi militia leaders. Trump officials quickly said Trump had been warned by intelligence (the same ones Trump repeatedly disparaged when they warned us about Russia's Vladimir Putin) that Soleimani was planning a new major terror operation in the region. That's why Trump ordered the assassination, they said.

On Friday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell stood on the Senate floor surrounded by empty seats and began praising Trump's leadership decision. He said America must redouble its vigilance in this perilous time -- and without even

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a pause, McConnell went on to attack Democrats for pushing President Trump's impeachment at this moment.

Back in 1998, just months after Hollywood released the "Wag the Dog" movie about a president who starts a war to divert us from his sex scandal, President Bill Clinton seemed to do just that. Clinton ordered airstrikes in Afghanistan and Sudan while Congress was about to impeach Clinton for lying under oath about his sex life.

Of course, Republicans questioned whether Clinton's attacks were his "wag the dog" moment. In 2012, Trump launched several tweets echoing this Oct. 12, 2012 theme: "Don't let Obama play the Iran card in order to start a war in order to get elected -- be careful Republicans!"

McConnell's unsubtle linkage of Trump's Senate impeachment trial and his assassination response to a horrific Mideast crisis where no one died was bizarre and even mind-boggling.

Trump's response to a very real crisis was surely no "wag the dog" fiction. But the Senate's top Republican did his president no favors by making the world wonder if the assassination response ordered by an impeachment-beset president might someday be revealed to have been a ploy that used convenient truth to create, for Trump, a helpful wag-the-dog moment.

After Qassem Soleimani's killing, how does this Iran war end?

No one should mourn the death of Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

This was the man responsible, directly and indirectly, for the death of hundreds of U.S. soldiers, as well as much of the carnage in Syria, the brutal repression of Iranian protesters in 1999 and 2009 and many more crimes.

But the verdict is out as to whether the White House has any strategy to deal with the repercussions of killing Iran's second-most powerful leader, who combined the powers of top military commander, intelligence chief and shadow foreign minister.

Eliminating this general is the equivalent of declaring open war on Tehran. A president who has insisted he wants to quit the Middle East is now sending thousands of more troops there to guard against Iranian retaliation. "Certainly, it's a good thing Soleimani is dead," says Ryan Crocker, the legendary former U.S. ambassador to Iraq who had to deal with Soleimani's wiles in the early 2000s. "But at what cost?"

Here are my early thoughts about costs and possible benefits of Soleimani's death.

Was the killing justified? "Absolutely, no question," says

Crocker. Soleimani was the military commander who devised and controlled virtually all of Iran's imperial adventures in the Middle East from Lebanon (with ally Hezbollah) to Gaza to Yemen. In Syria, the general assembled Shiite militias from Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan, plus Hezbollah fighters, that kept Bashar al-Assad in power, backed up by criminal Russian airstrikes against Syrian civilians.

And Soleimani was the most powerful man in Iraq. As commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, he organized Shiite militias to fight the Americans in the wake of the 2003 invasion and provided them with lethal, armor-piercing IEDs that killed hundreds of U.S. soldiers. These militias are now more powerful than the Iraqi army.

Was the killing wise? Having spent much time in Iraq when U.S. soldiers were being blown to bits, I have to cheer. And keep in mind that Soleimani's Quds Force has been helping to crush brave young Iraqi protesters on Baghdad's streets who are calling for an end to Iranian "occupation" of their country (although they also want U.S. forces out of Iraq).

But there are reasons that neither the United States nor Israel took the general out during the Bush or Obama years: the ongoing Iraq war, the hope for an Iran nuclear deal — and the fact that Soleimani's militias were crucial in defeating ISIS.

Most of all, there was a reluctance to enter open war with Iran.

With its capability of waging asymmetrical warfare militias, cyber assets and naval presence in the Gulf, Tehran can destabilize the entire Mideast. Even President Trump backed off responding with force when the Iranians shot down a U.S. drone and badly damaged a Saudi refinery.

Now all that has changed, supposedly because one U.S. contractor was killed by Iranian-backed militias — and because more Iranian attacks were likely. Is this just Trump seizing a target of opportunity? Was this earth-shaking event triggered with an eye to Fox News and 2020 elections?

What does Trump want to achieve? One moment, Trump says he wants to negotiate with top Iranian leaders; the next, Mike Pompeo effectively calls for regime change.

Does Trump believe killing Soleimani will precipitate a popular uprising against the ayatollahs? This is a pipe dream. Although many urban Iranian liberals will cheer the general's

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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death, Soleimani remains a hero to most Iranians because of his military bravery in the Iran-Iraq war, in defeating ISIS in Iraq and in protecting Shiite shrines in Syria and Iraq.

A reasonable midterm goal would be to block Iran from stirring more trouble in the region — and the loss of Soleimani's talents will seriously hurt Tehran's imperial ambitions. But an erratic Trump is famously resistant to experts who could help him devise ways to counter Iran's efforts at revenge. And if the regime holds on, what then?

What are the likely costs of the assassination? The most immediate cost will likely be in Iraq. Shiite legislators will probably vote to remove the 5,000 U.S. troops now based in their country. Trump may not care.

Reminder: When Barack Obama removed the last troops from Iraq in 2011, Iraqi forces proved incapable of halting ISIS's rise. Iraqi officials tell me their greatest fear is that, if U.S. forces leave, Iran will take full control of Iraq. Soleimani would be smiling.

Beyond Iraq, Tehran's possible asymmetric responses are many: a return to 20% enrichment of uranium, which opens the path to a bomb; more attacks on Gulf refineries or shipping, driving oil prices up; terror attacks against Israel, or Americans in the Mideast, by proxies; a high-level revenge killing of a U.S. official if the opportunity occurs. The list is endless.

The only thing that is certain is this: Contrary to Pompeo's claim, in the short term, Americans in the region aren't safer after the general's death. How high the long-term costs depends on whether Trump — contrary to his history — has any realistic goals in mind for waging open warfare with Iran.

TRUMP

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sination to stop? How does such an escalation of hostilities square with Trump's supposed eagerness to avoid "endless wars" in faraway countries?

Further, do U.S. military and national security leaders have plans in place for countering whatever response Iran might unleash — has the administration gamed this out sufficiently? Or was this, like many of Trump's decisions, a reckless, last-minute move against the advice of wiser advisers? How does killing one of the nation's top military figures dissuade the regime in Tehran from pressing forward with its nuclear ambitions?

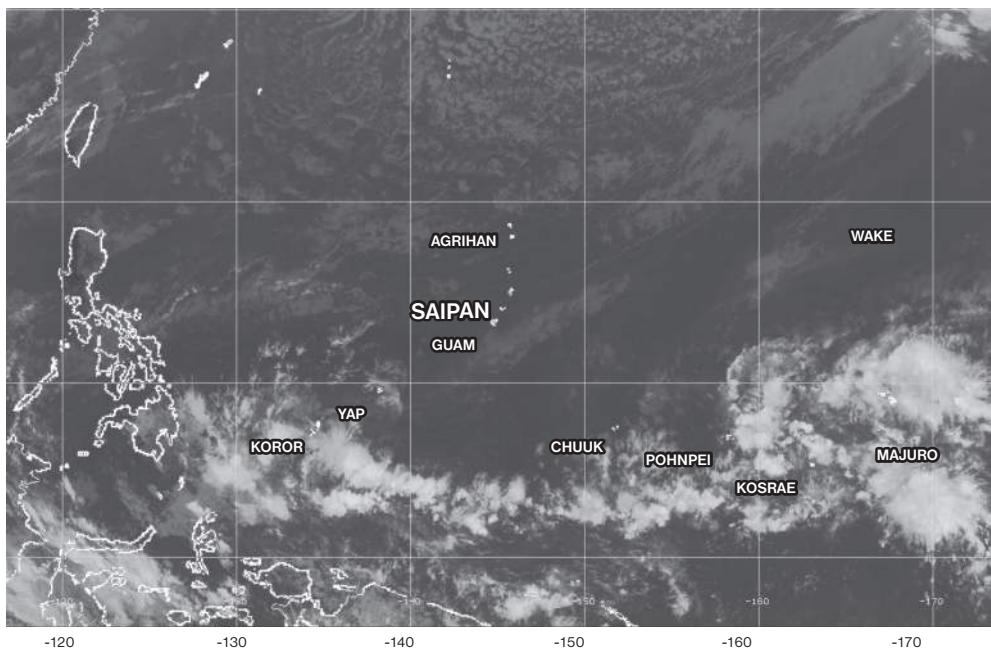
Questions, lots of questions. The president needs to address them, and quickly. This is dangerous territory, and it would be nice to feel assured that he has thought through the ramifications. If he has.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
86°	75°	87°	70°	87°
70°	70°	80°	70°	80°
70°	80°	70°	80°	70°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:15 AM, MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate northeast trade winds and partly cloudy skies are present across the Marianas this morning. A minor trade-wind disturbance to the southeast has pushed showers to within about 120 miles of Guam. Seas at the buoys range from about 5 feet to a little over 6 feet, but since north swell is blocked from Ipan, and east swell is partially blocked at Tanapag, combined seas are likely at least 7 feet in the open Marianas waters.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	84°	/	77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84°	/	78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85°	/	79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	83°	/	79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85°	/	78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85°	/	78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86°	/	81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	66°	/	59°
Beijing	Sunny	41°	/	18°
Hong Kong	Sunny	73°	/	64°
Honolulu	Windy	80°	/	72°
London	Mostly Cloudy	54°	/	52°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	75°	/	50°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90°	/	75°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	75°	/	61°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	76°	/	60°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	42°	/	33°
Osaka	Rainy	61°	/	46°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	50°	/	46°
Busan	Windy	50°	/	36°
Rome	Sunny	54°	/	36°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	60°	/	33°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	54°	/	46°
Seoul	Mixed	39°	/	21°
Tokyo	Rainy	48°	/	45°
Washington, DC	Mixed	41°	/	31°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET			
6:17 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.35	
10:55 AM	LOW TIDE	0.96	
4:22 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.62	
11:51 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.27	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:44 AM	6:00 PM
Wednesday	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Thursday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:03 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:05 AM	2:43 PM
Wednesday	-	3:59 AM	3:40 PM
Thursday	-	4:56 AM	4:33 PM
Friday	-	5:55 AM	5:30 PM
Saturday	-	6:54 AM	6:31 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 2, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 9:15am 9:55am Daily				UA174 7:30am 8:11am Daily			
UA105 6:20pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6				UA104 4:45pm 5:26pm 2, 4, 6			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY811 10:15am 3:00pm Daily				SKY816 4:35pm 7:30pm 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7			
				SKY816 5:05pm 8:00pm 6			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:20am 6:30am Daily				7C3452 9:35pm 2:30am+1 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			
				7C3452 10:05pm 2:30am+1 3			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 2:05am 6:05am Daily				OZ6233 8:00am 1:20pm 2, 4, 6			
OZ626 2:10am 6:05am 1				OZ623 8:55am 2:30pm 1, 3, 5, 7			
OZ626 2:50am 6:25am 3, 7				7C3402 10:10am 3:30pm Daily			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 4, 5, 6				TW309 11:10am 4:25pm Daily			
7C3403 4:35am 8:35am Daily				OZ625 7:30pm 1:00am+1 7			
OZ6243 3:20pm 7:10pm 2, 4, 6				TW307 7:45pm 1:05am+1 Daily			
OZ624 3:50pm 7:40pm 1, 3, 5, 7				OZ625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
7C3401 4:30pm 8:25pm Daily				7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 Daily			
TW310 5:25pm 10:15pm Daily							
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648 6:10am 8:50am 4, 7							

Business



BEA CABRERA
The Hybrid Shop is located along Beach Road in Garapan.

The Hybrid Shop located along Beach Road, Garapan promotes community culture as it encourage and promotes diversity and inclusiveness.

"I'm a hybrid—I am half Carolinian and half Filipino. I'm a mix of two cultures that have a rich heritage, which today represent the CNMI as a whole. We are so diverse and we bring to the table many things and that brings out the best of the many worlds," said The Hybrid Shop manager James Rabauliman.

"The shop has two businesses—a printing and a retail shop. The former is focused on customizing orders of shirts, caps, tank tops, sublimation,

any request whether original or anything you see online, we could do it with an influence of local touch. We are also a shop that sells budget clothes, apparel, security system, and vintage clothes that the CNMI was producing before during the garment factory days," Rabauliman added.

The Hybrid Shop opened last year and was borne out of Rabauliman's passion for family and home. "At 23 years old, I was travelling the world as a flight steward for Dynamic International Airways. I saw the potential of having my own business because travelling for work is very tiring and it may also be lavish



BEA CABRERA
James Rabauliman has achieved his dreams by opening The Hybrid Shop last year in his own home island.

The Hybrid Shop celebrates diversity

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

but it's lonely. Opening The Hybrid Shop meant I didn't have to leave home and family," he said.

"I cater to the young ones who likes fashion...and my prices are very affordable as I put myself in their shoes because I know what it is like to be a student and not have a lot of money... I also do shirts for public school students...we carry high fashion items like Adidas' Yeezy's, Nike Rubber shoes for the 'hyperbeast'

crowd who likes to have the latest trends," he added.

Aside from his shop, Rabauliman also has a strong following in his online shop. "We have a 'local market hafa adai' series which is sellable both here in the shop and online. We get clients from the U.S. mainland, Russia, and other parts of the world. Locals who now live somewhere else love our products because they say it's a piece of home and design is up to date so you can wear it

every day," he said.

For the new year, Rabauliman is transitioning into basketball jerseys for local teams "Whether it is a team or family shirts, this is a necessity on island and we are here to make those for them. As for design, I am inspired by whatever is out there as I go with the flow and the wave but we try to put our own version," he added.

"Two other goals are expanding the shop and having a 100% fully functioning print-

ing shop. I will try to be the first of my kind to do that as there are not a lot of Carolinian/Filipino entrepreneurs...I do it for my family and the youth of today," he added.

The Hybrid Shop is open Monday to Saturday from 11am to 6pm. For more information, call (670)788-5722 email: 670hybridshop@gmail.com Instagram: @hybridspn Facebook: @highbreedshop and website: www.hybridsph.com

Japan says Ghosn's escape inexcusable, orders investigation

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's justice minister on Sunday called the flight of former Nissan Chairman Carlos Ghosn as he awaited trial on financial misconduct charges inexcusable and vowed to beef up immigration checks.

Justice Minister Masako Mori said she had ordered an investigation after Ghosn issued a statement a few days ago saying he was in Lebanon.

She said there were no records of Ghosn's departure from Tokyo.

She said his bail has been revoked, and Interpol had issued a wanted notice. Departure checks needed to be strengthened to prevent a recurrence, Mori said.

While expressing deep regret over what had happened, Mori stopped short of outlin-

ing any specific action Japan might take to get Ghosn back.

Japan does not have an extradition treaty with Lebanon.

"Our nation's criminal justice system protects the basic human rights of an individual and properly carries out appropriate procedures to disclose the truth of various cases, and the flight of a suspect while out on bail is never justified," she said in a statement.

Mori's statement was the first public comment by a Japanese government official after the stunning escape of Ghosn, once a superstar of the auto industry.

Tokyo prosecutors issued a similar statement Sunday. They had opposed Ghosn's release on bail, arguing he was a flight risk.

Ghosn's trial was not expected to start until April at the earliest.

First arrested in November 2018, Ghosn was out on bail over the last several months, and more recently had moved into a home in an upscale part of Tokyo.

He has repeatedly said he was innocent. His statement from Beirut said he was escaping injustice.

Japan's justice system has come under fire from human rights advocates for its long detentions, the reliance on confessions and prolonged trials.

The conviction rate is higher than 99%. Even if Ghosn had been found innocent, the prosecutors could have appealed, and the appeals process could have lasted years.

During that time, he had

been prohibited from seeing his wife, and was only allowed a couple of video calls in the presence of a lawyer.

Ghosn had been charged with underreporting his future compensation and breach of trust in diverting Nissan money for his personal gain.

Although the details of his escape are not yet clear, Turkish airline company MNG Jet has said two of its planes were used illegally, first flying him from Osaka, Japan, to Istanbul, and then on to Beirut, where he arrived Monday and has not been seen since.

He promised to talk to reporters Wednesday.

His lawyers in Japan said they knew nothing, were stunned and felt betrayed by his action.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US restricts exports of AI for analyzing satellite images

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. technology companies that build artificial intelligence software for analyzing satellite imagery will face new restrictions on exporting their products to China and elsewhere. The Commerce Department said new export rules take effect Monday that target emerging technology that could give the U.S. a significant military or intelligence advantage. A special license would be required to sell software outside the U.S. that can automatically scan aerial images to identify objects of interest, such as vehicles or houses. The rules could affect a growing sector of the tech industry using algorithms to analyze satellite images of crops, trade patterns and other changes affecting the economy or environment. The new export rules are the result of Congress passing a law in 2018 that updated national security-related export controls to protect "emerging and foundational" technology that could end up in the hands of foreign govern-

ments. It's an interim rule until the public has a chance to weigh in before March, but the Commerce Department says it is in the national security interests of the U.S. to immediately implement the controls Monday.

Mercedes recalls 750,000 cars because sunroof can fly off

NEW YORK (AP)—Mercedes-Benz is recalling roughly 750,000 cars because the vehicles' sunroofs could potentially detach and fly off, causing road hazards. The cars include the Mercedes-Benz's C-Class, E-Class, CLK-Class and the CLS-Class, made between 2001 and 2011. All four vehicles came with an optional sunroof, and the bonding material on those sunroofs can deteriorate, resulting in the sunroof detaching from the car, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Affected owners will be contacted by Mercedes on or after February 14, and the sunroofs will be inspected and replaced if necessary, free of charge.

Justice Minister Masako Mori said she had ordered an investigation after Ghosn issued a statement a few days ago saying he was in Lebanon. She said there were no records of Ghosn's departure from Tokyo.

She said his bail has been revoked, and Interpol had issued a wanted notice. Departure checks needed to be strengthened to prevent a recurrence, Mori said.

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Nation

Trump says 52 targets already lined up if Iran retaliates

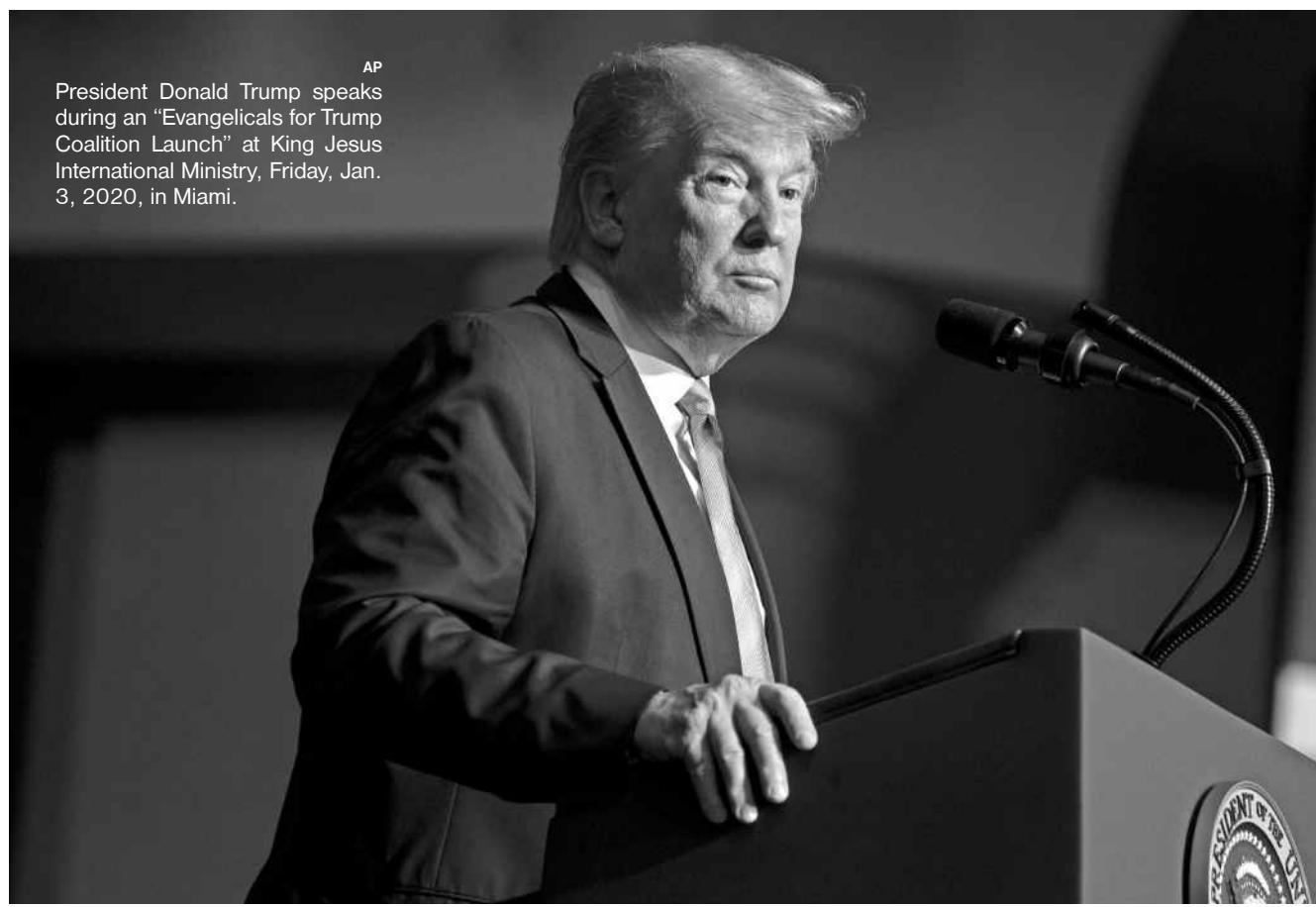
WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—President Donald Trump issued a stark warning to Iran on Saturday, threatening to hit dozens of targets in the Islamic Republic “very fast and very hard” if it retaliates for the targeted killing of the head of Iran’s elite Quds Force.

The series of tweets came as the White House sent to Congress a formal notification under the War Powers Act of the drone strike on Gen. Qassem Soleimani, a senior administration official said. U.S. law required notification within 48 hours of the introduction of American forces into an armed conflict or a situation that could lead to war.

The notification was classified and it was not known if a public version would be released. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the classified document “suggests Congress and the American people are being left in the dark about our national security.”

In unusually specific language, Trump tweeted that his administration had already targeted 52 Iranian sites, “some at a very high level & important to Iran & the Iranian culture.” He linked the number of sites to the number of hostages, also 52, held by Iran for nearly 15 months after protesters overran the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979.

Thousands of Iranians lined Baghdad streets Saturday for the funeral procession for Soleimani. The Islamic Republic has vowed revenge for the Trump-ordered airstrike that



AP
President Donald Trump speaks during an “Evangelicals for Trump Coalition Launch” at King Jesus International Ministry, Friday, Jan. 3, 2020, in Miami.

killed him and several senior Iraqi militants early Friday Baghdad time.

Trump appeared to respond to such threats with tweets justifying Soleimani’s killing and matching the bellicose language from Iran.

“Iran is talking very boldly about targeting certain USA assets as revenge for our ridging the world of their terrorist leader who had just killed an American, & badly wounded many others, not to mention all of the people he had killed over his lifetime, including recently hundreds of Iranian

protesters,” the president tweeted. “He was already attacking our Embassy, and preparing for additional hits in other locations. Iran has been nothing but problems for many years.”

Trump also warned: “The USA wants no more threats!”

Trump’s reference to targeting sites “important to Iran & the Iranian culture” could raise questions about whether striking such targets would violate international agreements. The American Red Cross notes on its website that the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their additional protocols, ratified

by scores of nations in recent years, states that “cultural objects and places of worship” may not be attacked and outlaws “indiscriminate attacks on civilian populations.”

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, campaigning in Iowa, questioned whether Trump was acting alone or with support of allies. “We have no idea – I have no idea – whether he has any plan at all,” the former vice president told reporters Saturday night. “But when he makes statements like that, it just seems to me to be he’s going

off on a tweet storm on his own, and it’s incredibly dangerous and irresponsible.”

The notification document sent Saturday to congres-

sional leadership, the House speaker and the Senate president pro tempore was entirely classified, according to a senior Democratic aide and a congressional aide. The aides and the senior administration official were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and requested anonymity.

In a statement, Pelosi said the “highly unusual” decision to classify the document compounds concerns from Congress.

“This document prompts serious and urgent questions about the timing, manner and justification of the Administration’s decision to engage in hostilities against Iran,” Pelosi said and reiterated her call for a full briefing for lawmakers.

Pelosi said the Trump administration’s “provocative, escalatory and disproportionate military engagement continues to put servicemembers, diplomats and citizens of America and our allies in danger.” She called on the administration “for an immediate, comprehensive briefing of the full Congress on military engagement related to Iran and next steps under consideration.”

Solidarity march against anti-Semitism, acts of hate

NEW YORK (AP)—Throngs of demonstrators joined by elected officials walked solemnly across the Brooklyn Bridge in a solidarity march Sunday against anti-Semitism and all acts of hate.

The “No Hate, No Fear” march was organized by New York’s Jewish community

in the wake of recent anti-Semitic attacks, including a knife attack at a Hanukkah celebration north of New York City that left five people wounded and a fatal shootout at a kosher grocery in Jersey City, New Jersey.

The crowds of participants, thousands strong, jammed the streets in lower Manhattan as they waited their turns to get across the bridge.

“It is wonderful that we are doing this and sad that we still have to do it,” said Claudia Stoller, 31, of Manhattan. “But it was never lost on me that the Jewish community could always be targeted and should always be ready to be strong.”

Tiana Gianci, 44, came up from her home in Ellicott City, Maryland, to take part in the march, and said it was even more important to her after a recent trip to the part of Europe where her fam-

ily comes from, where she learned about their experience in the Holocaust.

“I just felt when I got back and just started to see everything, that this is the littlest thing that I could do to start to show action. I’ve done a lot of protests but never this type of event before,” she said.

Anti-Semitism is “growing so quickly and it’s just frightening the speed ... it just seems very real and very possible that this could be the start of something and that we need leadership to speak out against hate more than they currently are,” she said.

Marchers carried signs saying “No hate in our state” and “Always here without fear.”

Among the elected officials at the march were New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, and U.S. Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand.

“Discrimination, racism, anti-Semitism, is repugnant to every value that New Yorkers hold dear, and repugnant to every value that this country represents,” Cuomo said as he lauded the crowd of several thousand that turned out in support of the march.

ACROSS THE NATION

5 dead, 60 hospitalized in Pennsylvania Turnpike crash

Five people were killed and about 60 were injured on the Pennsylvania Turnpike early Sunday morning, when a loaded bus went out of control on a hill and rolled over, setting off a chain reaction that involved three tractor-trailers and a passenger car. The injured victims, ranging from 7 to 67 years old, are all expected to survive, though two patients remain in critical condition, authorities and hospital officials said Sunday afternoon. The crash, which happened at 3:40 a.m. on a mountainous and rural stretch of the interstate about 30 miles (50 kilometers) east of Pittsburgh, shut down the highway in both directions for several hours before it reopened Sunday evening. Two

UPS drivers, Daniel Kepner, 53, and Dennis Kehler, 48, were killed in the crash, company spokeswoman Kristen Petrella said. Both were driving together in a tractor-trailer out of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Petrella said. State police have not identified the other three victims who were killed. The bus was traveling from Rockaway, New Jersey, to Cincinnati, Ohio, Pennsylvania State Police spokesman Stephen Limani told reporters. He said the bus, operated by a New Jersey-based company called Z & D Tours, was traveling downhill on a curve, careened up an embankment and rolled over. Two tractor-trailers then struck the bus. A third tractor-trailer then crashed into those trucks. A passenger car was also involved in the pileup. Photos from the scene

show a mangled collision of multiple vehicles including a smashed FedEx truck that left packages sprawled along the highway. (AP)

1 of 2 escapees from troubled Mississippi prison in custody

One of two prisoners believed to have escaped from one of several Mississippi prisons recently rocked by violence is back in custody, authorities said early Sunday. The Mississippi Department of Corrections tweeted just before 3:30 a.m. that David May was in custody. Further details weren’t immediately released. Gov. Phil Bryant on Saturday said via Twitter that he directed “the use of all necessary assets and personnel” to find the two inmates who escaped Saturday from the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parch-

man. Five inmates have died in prison violence since Dec. 29; three of those deaths have occurred at Parchman. The corrections department said in a Facebook post that May, 42, and Dillon Williams, 27, were discovered missing from Parchman during an “emergency count” about 1:45 a.m. Saturday. May is serving a life sentence for two aggravated assault convictions in Harrison County, and Williams is serving a 40-year sentence for residential burglary and aggravated assault in Marshall County.

The state Department of Public Safety deployed state troopers and the highway patrol’s special operations group to help the Department of Corrections find the two inmates and to help restore order at the troubled facility that they escaped from, Bryant said. (AP)

Asia

Australia commits billions of dollars to wildfire recovery

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia's government on Monday said it was willing to pay "whatever it takes" to help communities recover from deadly wildfires that have ravaged the country.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the government was committing an extra 2 billion Australian dollars (\$1.4 billion) toward the recovery effort in addition to the tens of millions of dollars that has already been committed.

"The fires are still burning. And they'll be burning for months to come," Morrison said. "And so that's why I outlined today that this is an initial, an additional, investment of \$2 billion. If more is needed and the cost is higher, then more will be provided."

His announcement came as authorities said two more people were missing in remote parts of New South Wales.

Rain and cooler temperatures were bringing some measure of relief to those communities battling wildfires.

But the rain was also making it challenging for fire crews to complete strategic burns as they tried to prepare for higher temperatures that have been forecast for later in the week.

The wildfires have so far scorched an area twice the size of the U.S. state of Maryland. They have killed at least 24 people and destroyed about 2,000 homes.

More than 135 fires were still burning across the state, including almost 70 that were not contained. The Rural Fire Service is warning the rain won't put out the largest and most dangerous blazes before conditions deteriorate again this week.

Australia's capital, Canberra, had the worst air quality of any major city in the world on



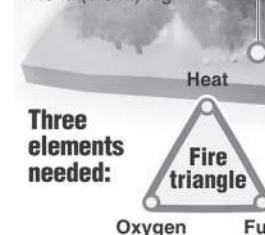
A truck is burnt out at Conjola Park, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, after recent wildfires ripped through the community. AP

Wildfire types

A wildfire—also known as a forest fire, vegetation fire, grass or bush fire—is an uncontrolled fire often caused by lightning, human carelessness or arson.

Ground fire

• Fire spreads via low level vegetation, such as bushes; surface fires can reach up to 4.3 ft. (1.3 m) high



Fire type by combustion form:

Smoldering: Smoke, but no flames

Flaming: Combustion only with flames

Crown fire

• Occurs in top of trees; the most dangerous fires; spread the fastest, jump from crown to crown; can also start from surface fires that reach up to crowns

Wind → Typical fire-front is pear-shaped

• Powerful updraft caused by large fire will draw air in from surroundings
• Self-generated winds can lead to so-called firestorms

Glowing: Slow combustion, blue flame

Jumping fire

• Burning branches, leaves are carried by wind; start distant fires that can jump over a river, road or firebreak

Weather conditions, environment:

• Extended dry, hot periods
• Strong winds

Air contains flammable essences; plants are drier, highly flammable

Source: www.borealforest.org
Graphic: TNS

Monday morning. The Department of Home Affairs, which is responsible for coordinating the country's response to disasters, told all non-critical staff to stay home because of the abysmal air quality.

"With the more benign weather conditions it presents some wonderful relief for everybody, the firefighters, the emergency services personnel, but also the communities affected by these

fires," Shane Fitzsimmons, commissioner of the New South Wales Rural Fire Service, told reporters. "But it also presents some real challenges when it comes to implementing tactical and

strategic back-burns and other techniques to try and bring these fires under control."

New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian said that there was no room for complacency.

"Unfortunately, overnight, it's become apparent that we have two people unaccounted for in New South Wales," she said at a news conference, adding she still held out hope for some good news to emerge about them.

Morrison has come under criticism for his response to the fires. He said this week that there has been plenty of blame thrown around, but that the commentary has not been productive.

Morrison announced on Saturday he would dispatch 3,000 army, navy and air force reservists to help battle the fires. He also committed 20 million Australian dollars (\$14 million) to lease firefighting aircraft from overseas.

Mudslides, blackouts hamper search after Indonesia floods

JAKARTA, Indonesia

(AP)—Mudslides and power blackouts hampered the search for people missing in massive floods in Indonesia's capital, where more than 60 people have died and some of the tens of thousands of evacuees were living in damp, cramped emergency shelters.

More than a thousand soldiers and health workers sprayed disinfectant in hard-hit areas on Sunday to fend off diseases that could spread in the floods. Monsoon rains and rising rivers submerged a dozen districts in the greater Jakarta area after extreme New Year's Eve rains, causing landslides in hilly areas on the outskirts of the capital that buried scores of people.

It's the worst flooding in the area since 2007, when 80 people were killed over 10 days. More rain is in the forecast, and the potential for more extreme rainfall is possible for the next month.

National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Agus Wibowo said Monday the death toll from flash flood and landslides in and around Jakarta rose to 66 and rescuers are still searching for two people reportedly still missing in Lebak, a district in neighboring Banten province.

In Lebak district, where flash floods and mudslides damaged more than 2,000 houses in several villages, some were swept away, rescuers were still searching for a 7-year-old boy reportedly dragged away by flash flooding that killed at least nine people, said Zainal Arifin, a local search and rescue agency chief.

ASIA BRIEFS

Local authorities: Mysterious illness in China is not SARS

BEIJING (AP)—The mysterious respiratory illness that has infected dozens of people in a central Chinese city is not SARS, local authorities said Sunday. The 2002-2003 SARS epidemic started in southern China and killed more than 700 people in mainland China, Hong Kong and elsewhere. Fears of a SARS recurrence arose this month after a slate of patients were hospitalized with an unexplained viral pneumonia in Wuhan, the capital of Hubei province. As of Sunday, 59 people were diagnosed with the condition and have been isolated while they receive treatment,

according to the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission. Seven were in critical condition, while the rest were stable. The commission said in a statement that initial investigations have ruled out SARS—severe acute respiratory syndrome—as well as Middle East respiratory syndrome, influenza, bird flu and adenovirus. The commission previously said the condition's most common symptom was fever, with shortness of breath and lung infections appearing in a "small number" of cases. There were no clear indications of human-to-human transmission. Several patients were working at the South China Seafood City food market in sprawling Wuhan's sub-

urbs. The commission said the market would be suspended and investigated. Hong Kong's Hospital Authority said Sunday that a total of 15 patients in Hong Kong were being treated for symptoms including fever and respiratory infection after recent visits to Wuhan.

Hong Kong protesters march to oppose traders from mainland

HONG KONG (AP)—Thousands of people marched through a Hong Kong border town on Sunday to oppose traders from mainland China. They rallied in Sheung Shui, which lies across the border from the mainland city of Shenzhen. For years, traders have bought goods from the

district to sell at a markup in Shenzhen. The practice is called "parallel trading" because it happens in a gray area alongside legal trade. Some black-clad protesters held up signs that read "SARS," an apparent reference to a mysterious infectious disease that may have been brought to Hong Kong from the central Chinese city of Wuhan, where at least 44 people have been infected. The outbreak has revived memories of the 2002-2003 SARS epidemic that began in southern China and killed more than 700 people.

Police used tear gas on demonstrators who hurled petrol bombs at the Sheung Shui police station, authorities said. While the procession ended

at 2:50 p.m., some demonstrators refused to disperse and remained in standoffs with riot police. About 100 protesters marched through a Sheung Shui mall last month, demanding that mainland Chinese traders leave the territory. Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous Chinese territory, has seen more than six months of anti-government demonstrations.

Man killed in shark attack off Western Australia state

PERTH (AP)—A man was killed by a shark Sunday while diving near Esperance off the coast of Western Australia since 2000. In April 2017, 17-year-old Laeticia Brouwer died after being attacked by a great white shark while surfing with her father off Esperance.

Esperance just after 1 p.m. His body has not been found. The Department of Primary Industries confirmed the attack, saying "a man received fatal injuries after being bitten by a reported white shark." Police said a woman aboard the boat had been treated for shock. "Esperance Police and Marine Rescue WA volunteers deployed to the area on board the marine rescue vessels. They are still searching the ocean for the victim," a police spokesman said. It was the 16th fatal shark attack off Western Australia since 2000. In April 2017, 17-year-old Laeticia Brouwer died after being attacked by a great white shark while surfing with her father off Esperance.

World

Blowback: Iran abandons nuclear limits after US killing

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—The blowback over the U.S. killing of a top Iranian general mounted Sunday as Iran announced it will no longer abide by the limits contained in the 2015 nuclear deal and Iraq's Parliament called for the expulsion of all American troops from Iraqi soil.

The twin developments could bring Iran closer to building an atomic bomb and enable the Islamic State group to stage a comeback in Iraq, making the Middle East a far more dangerous and unstable place.

Adding to the tensions, U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to demand billions of dollars in compensation from Iraq or impose "sanctions like they've never seen before" if it goes through with expelling U.S. troops.

Iranian state television cited a statement by President Hassan Rouhani's administration saying the country would not observe the nuclear deal's restrictions on fuel enrichment, on the size of its enriched uranium stockpile and on its research and development activities.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran no longer faces any limitations in operations," a state TV broadcaster said.

In Iraq, meanwhile, lawmakers voted in favor of a resolution calling for an end to the foreign military presence in the country, including the estimated 5,200 U.S. troops stationed to help fight Islamic State extremists. The bill is subject to approval by the Iraqi government but has the backing of the outgoing prime minister.

In yet another sign of rising tensions and threats of retaliation over the deadly airstrike, the U.S.-led military coalition in Iraq said it is putting the battle against IS on hold to focus

on protecting its own troops and bases.

The string of developments capped a day of mass mourning over Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, killed in a U.S. drone strike in Baghdad on Friday. Hundreds of thousands of people flooded the streets in the cities of Ahvaz and Mashhad to walk alongside the casket of Soleimani, who was the architect of Iran's proxy wars across the Mideast and was blamed for the deaths of hundreds of Americans in roadside bombings and other attacks.

Trump responded to the Parliament's troop withdrawal vote with a monetary threat, saying the U.S. expected to be paid for its military invest-

ments in Iraq before leaving and threatening economic sanctions if the U.S. is not treated properly.

"We have a very extraordinarily expensive air base that's there. It cost billions of dollars to build. Long before my time. We're not leaving unless they pay us back for it," he told reporters aboard Air Force One.

"If they do ask us to leave, if we don't do it in a very friendly basis, we will charge them sanctions like they've never seen before ever. It'll make Iranian sanctions look somewhat tame," he said.

He added: "We're not leaving until they pay us back for it."

State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus earlier said the U.S. is awaiting clarifi-

cation on its legal meaning but was "disappointed" by the move and strongly urged Iraq to reconsider.

"We believe it is in the shared interests of the United States and Iraq to continue fighting ISIS together," Ortagus said.

The leaders of Germany, France and Britain issued a joint statement on Sunday calling on Iran to abide by the terms of the nuclear deal and refrain from conducting or supporting further "violent acts."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson specifically urged Iran to "withdraw all measures" not in line with the 2015 agree-

ment that was intended to stop Tehran from pursuing its atomic weapons program.

Iran insisted that it remains open to negotiations with European partners over its nuclear program. And it did not back off from earlier promises that it wouldn't seek a nuclear weapon.

However, the announcement represents the clearest nuclear proliferation threat yet made by Iran since Trump unilaterally withdrew from the accord in 2018 and reimposed sanctions. It further raises regional tensions, as Iran's longtime foe Israel has promised never to allow Iran to produce an atomic bomb.

Iran did not elaborate on what levels it would immedi-

ately reach in its program. Tehran has already broken some of the deal's limits as part of a step-by-step pressure campaign to get sanctions relief. It has increased its production, begun enriching uranium to 5% and restarted enrichment at an underground facility.

While it does not possess uranium enriched to weapons-grade levels of 90%, any push forward narrows the estimated one-year "breakout time" needed for it to have enough material to build a nuclear weapon if it chose to do so.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations watchdog observing Iran's program, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. However, Iran said that its cooperation with the IAEA "will continue as before."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi earlier told journalists that Soleimani's killing would prompt Iranian officials to take a bigger step away from the nuclear deal.

"In the world of politics, all developments are interconnected," Mousavi said.

In Iraq, where the airstrike has been denounced as a violation of the country's sovereignty, Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi said that the government has two choices: End the presence of foreign troops or restrict their mission to training Iraqi forces. He called for the first option.

The majority of about 180 legislators present in Parliament voted in favor of the troop-removal resolution. It was backed by most Shiite members of Parliament, who hold a majority of seats. Many Sunni and Kurdish legislators did not show up for the session, apparently because they oppose abolishing the deal.

Drunken driver in Italy plows into German tourists, kills 6

ROME (AP)—A drunken driver speeding on a mountain road plowed into a group of young German tourists in northern Italy early Sunday, killing six people and injuring 11 others, Italian authorities said.

The deadly crash occurred in a village of Valle Aurina, northeast of Bolzano in the Alto Adige region, shortly after 1 a.m. as the Germans gathered near their tour bus. They were between the ages of 20 and 25.

The largely German-speaking autonomous region of northern Italy, with its ski resorts in the Dolomites and quaint villages around Bolzano, is popular with German tourists.

"The new year begins with

Extremists attack Kenya military base, 3 Americans killed

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—

Al-Shabab extremists overran a key military base used by U.S. counterterrorism forces in Kenya before dawn Sunday, killing three American Department of Defense personnel and destroying several U.S. aircraft and vehicles before they were repelled, U.S. and Kenyan authorities said.

The attack on the Manda Bay Airfield was the al-Qaida-linked group's first attack against U.S. forces in the East African country, and the military called the security situation "fluid" several hours after the assault.

Five attackers were killed, Kenyan military spokesman



A Shiite Muslim illuminates a portrait of Iranian Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani, with light from a mobile phone, during a rally to condemn his killing in Iraq by a U.S. airstrike, in Karachi, Pakistan, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020. AP

Paul Njuguna said.

Al-Shabab, based in neighboring Somalia, claimed responsibility for the assault.

One U.S. serviceman and two contractors with the U.S. Department of Defense were killed in the fighting, according to a statement issued late Sunday by the U.S. Africa Command, or Africom.

The attack on the compound "involved indirect and small arms fire. After an initial penetration of the perimeter, Kenya Defense Forces and U.S. Africa Command repelled the al-Shabab attack," said the AFRICOM statement. "Reports indicate that six contractor-operated

civilian aircraft were damaged to some degree. Manda Bay Airfield is utilized by U.S. forces whose missions include providing training to our African partners, responding to crises, and protecting U.S. interests in this strategically important area."

Al-Shabab claimed that there were 17 U.S. casualties, nine Kenyan soldiers killed and seven aircraft destroyed. The U.S. Africa Command dismissed the al-Shabab claims as exaggerated and said U.S. and Kenyan forces repelled the attack.

Kenya is a key base for fighting al-Shabab, one of the world's most resilient

extremist organizations. A large plume of black smoke rose above the airfield Sunday and residents said a car bomb had exploded. Lamu county commissioner Irungu Macharia told The Associated Press that five suspects were arrested and were being interrogated.

An internal Kenyan police report seen by the AP said two fixed-wing aircraft, a U.S. Cessna and a Kenyan one, were destroyed along with two U.S. helicopters and multiple U.S. vehicles at the military airstrip. The report said explosions were heard at around 5:30 a.m. from the direction of the airstrip.

a terrible tragedy," said the regional president of Alto Adige, Arno Kompatscher. "We are left stunned."

The driver of the car had a high blood alcohol content and was driving particularly fast, a Carabinieri police official in Brunico told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to give his name. He said police had concluded that the crash wasn't an act of terrorism.

Italian news reports said the driver's blood alcohol level was nearly four times the legal limit, and that he slammed into the tourists as they were getting off their bus and returning home after an evening out.

Focus

The Samples were a black Chicago family, with six children and few resources. The priest helped them with tuition, clothes, bills. He offered the promise of opportunities—a better life.

He also abused all the children.

They told no one. They were afraid of not being believed and of losing what little they had, said one son, Terrence Sample. And nobody asked, until a lawyer investigating alleged abuses by the same priest prompted him to break his then 33-year silence.

"Somebody had to make the effort," Sample said. "Why wasn't it the church?"

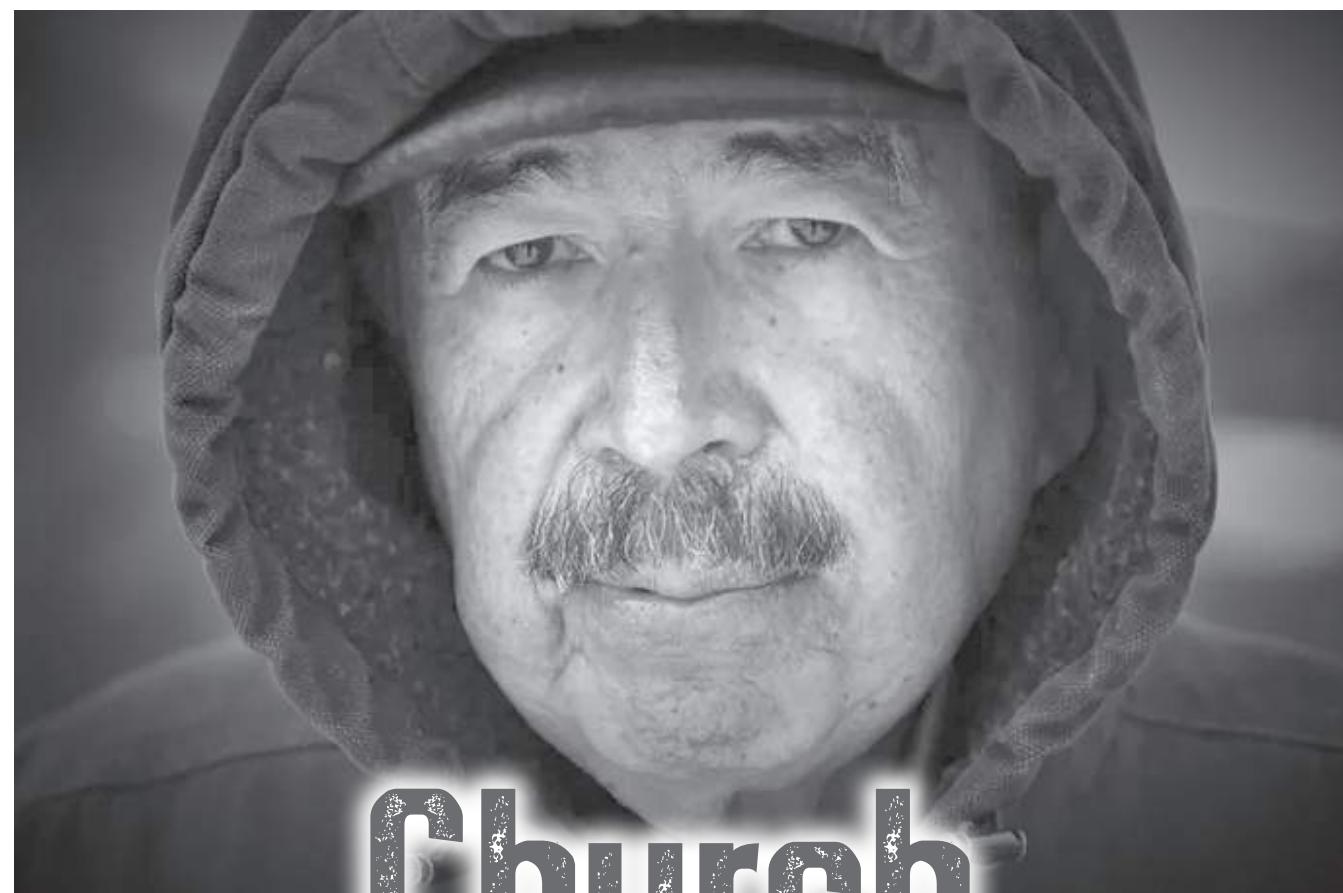
Even as it has pledged to go after predators in its ranks and provide support to those harmed by clergy, the church has done little to identify and reach sexual abuse victims. For survivors of color, who often face additional social and cultural barriers to coming forward on their own, the lack of concerted outreach on behalf of the church means less public exposure—and potentially, more opportunities for abuse to go on, undetected.

Of 88 dioceses that responded to an Associated Press inquiry, seven knew the ethnicities of victims. While it was clear at least three had records of some sort, only one stated it purposely collected such data as part of the reporting process. Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, Pacific Islanders and Hawaiians make up nearly 46% of the faithful in the U.S., according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, an authoritative source of Catholic-related data. But the Catholic Church has made almost no effort to track the victims among them.

"The church has to come into the shadows, into the trenches to find the people who were victimized, especially the people of color," Sample said. "There are other people like me and my family, who won't come forward unless someone comes to them."

Brian Clites, a leading scholar on clergy sexual abuse and professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, said the church has demonstrated a pattern of funneling predator priests to economically disadvantaged communities of color, where victims have much more to lose if they report their abuse.

"They are less likely to know where to get help, less



Richard King, 70, stands for a portrait at his ranch near Zortman, Mont., on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019. His family has lived on the 1,000-acre ranch in the Little Rocky Mountains for over a century. King was sexually abused on the Assiniboine reservation in Fort Belknap, Montana, where he grew up. He said taboos and shame kept him silent decades. Instead he abused alcohol and drugs. That, he believes, is how tribal members dealt with the abuses they face, rather than speaking out. AP

Church offers little outreach to minority victims of priests

By GARY FIELDS, JULIET LINDERMANN and WONG MAYE-E
ASSOCIATED PRESS

likely to have money for a lawyer to pursue that help and they are more vulnerable to counterattacks" from the church, which will hire investigators against the survivors, said Clites.

Alaska leads the nation in rates of sexual violence, and Florence Kenney said the Catholic church has played a role in perpetuating the abuse of natives there.

Kenney, now 85, said she was abused at the Holy Cross Mission in Holy Cross, Alaska. Kenney is indigenous, and she described the relationship between the Catholic Church and Native Alaskan families as both predatory and symbiotic: The church provided food, money and resources to the village, Kenney said, in exchange for labor and silence.

"The church needed those people, and the people needed the church," Kenney said. "A family might sacrifice one or two children, look the other way, to preserve their relationship with the church for the others."

There is no accurate count of clergy abuse survivors. A special report commissioned by the Colorado attorney general's

office examining abuse within state dioceses and released in October determined "victims of child sex abuse and particularly those abused by clergy are less likely to report their abuse than other crime victims."

As for minority survivors, dioceses rarely collect demographic data.

The AP contacted 178 dioceses to ask if they collect such data. Few who responded knew the race or ethnicity of claimants. Some said demographics aren't relevant, while others cited privacy concerns.

One diocese—Alexandria, Louisiana—shared a spreadsheet of survivors, including demographics, and without names.

The diocese began keeping such data in 2015, when Lee Kneipp, the victim assistance coordinator, took the job. Kneipp said knowing the race and ethnicity of victims helps investigative efforts and enables a deeper examination of records and the potential ability to find others who have not been acknowledged.

In looking into one African American survivor's abuse claim, Kneipp was able to locate two more survivors of color from the same parish; the priest,

he said, abused only boys in low-income black communities.

Levi Monagle, an Albuquerque lawyer whose firm has close to 200 clients, including Native Americans and Hispanics, said there can be cultural and logistical impediments to contacting survivors who have not come forward.

"We don't go cold-calling people, knocking on doors, even if you have a serial perpetrator and a survivor who says we know there were other altar boys who traveled with this guy," he said.

The firm puts out press releases but some of the Native American population and communities are in "extreme geographic isolation" compared with other places and often don't have access to media.

Richard King, 70, was sexually abused on the Assiniboine reservation in Fort Belknap, Montana, where he grew up. He said taboos and shame kept him silent. Instead he abused alcohol and drugs. That, he believes,

is how tribal members dealt with the abuses they face, rather than speaking out.

His mother's tribe was de-

voutly Catholic, and he doubted he would be believed.

"If children tell their parents that the clerics abused you, I would probably have gotten a whipping. I would have gotten one at church and one at home," King said. "They'd say, 'Shut up, that doesn't happen.'"

He began speaking to small groups he counseled, sharing some of his story. But it was nearly 50 years before he met with an attorney, Andrew Chasan; he was ready to share what happened to him, and sit down with Montana media.

When the Society of Jesus, Oregon Province, faced scores of suits accusing its priests of abuse, it filed for bankruptcy. King filed a claim and received a settlement, though in a statement to the AP the province said King's abuser was not a Jesuit priest.

Phillip Aaron, a Seattle-based attorney who represented the Sample family, said his client base, which includes hundreds of African American survivors of clergy abuse, stayed silent because they feared ridicule, or worse.

"It was such a stigma," Aaron said. "That is still present

now. We haven't touched the top of the barrel of black victims. There are so many black victims who have not come forward who are suffering in silence because of the stigma."

Some survivors, like Sample, kept quiet because they did not want the resources their abusers provided to dry up, Aaron said.

Sample, now 58, was a middle school student at St. Procopius Catholic school, when his abuser, a priest there, took an interest in him. He was groomed, isolated and assaulted for several years, he said.

"I was thinking I have to keep this secret," Sample said. "One, we have to eat and two, we have to stay in school, and this would kill my mom if she knew."

Jacob Olivas' secrecy emanated from another source. He was raised in California, the son of two Mexican immigrants. His father, he said, was the embodiment of machismo: strong, silent, stoic. Olivas was abused by a priest at age 6, and when his father found out he instructed Jacob to stay quiet. It was never discussed, he said. He had no therapy, no opportunity to process what had happened.

"I was supposed to keep quiet, to forget about it," Olivas said.

"That's just the way the Hispanic community is. They have a reverence for the church, there's no ands, there's no buts, there's no questions: You respect the church, you respect the father," he said. "I think it was something that made my father feel more proud: This priest is taking an interest in my son."

Such reluctance to come forward, whether fueled by social or cultural barriers, shame or fear, means some victims will stay silent unless they are drawn out.

"How big is the iceberg that's under the water still, when you're talking about survivors?" Monagle asked. "Every culture carries the weight of its own taboos." (AP)

Overdrive

By EMMA JAYNE WILLIAMS
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

For 2020, BMW introduces the revised version of the 7 Series luxury sedan with extensive updates in design, technology and powertrain for the sixth generation.

A new six-cylinder plug-in hybrid joins turbocharged six-, eight- and 12-cylinder engines. The iDrive 7 system along with Mobileye interior camera and available Driving Assistant Pro (\$1,700) are BMW's latest technology contributions toward self-driving cars.

Driving Assistance Pro includes Extended Traffic Jam Assistance (limited access highways), Active Cruise Control with Stop and Go, Active Lane Keeping Assistant with side-collision avoidance, Steering and Traffic Jam Assistant, Automatic Lane Change, Evasion Assistant and Cross-traffic Front Alert.

Design updates touch almost every area of the body, including the front bumper, hood, headlights, front fenders, rear bumper trim and rear lights.

The 7-Series offers six models: fuel-injection models include 740i RWD, \$86,450; 740i xDrive, \$89,450; and 750i xDrive, \$102,650; performance model M 760i xDrive, \$157,700; Alpina B7 xDrive, \$142,800; and plug-in hybrid 745e xDrive, \$95,550.

Alpina is an automotive manufacturing company in Germany that works with BMW, integrating its process into BMW's production lines, developing high-performance versions of BMW cars. B7 is produced on the same assembly line as the BMW 7-Series, with the twin-turbo 4.4-liter V-8 assembled by hand at Alpina's German facility, shipped to BMW for installation and sent back to Alpina for finish-

ing touches.

Luxury meets sustainability in the 745e xDrive, the model I drove, with a specially adapted six-cylinder engine (maximum output 280 horsepower), an integrated electric motor (113 horsepower, 195 foot-pounds of torque) and a new lithium-ion battery (stored under the floor) with the latest cell technology and increased capacity.

The 745e has all the luxury sedan's essence, combined with high efficiency and the ability to offer a virtually silent, all-electric driving experience with zero emissions and improved electric range. The hybrid system has an EPA combined electric and gasoline rating of 56 MPGe and a gasoline only rating of 22 mpg.

With the Driving Experience Control switch in Sport mode, the duo can reach a combined output of 389 horsepower and maximum combined torque of up to 442 foot-pounds. A hybrid-specific eight-speed Sport Steptronic transmission incorporates the electric motor and an improved clutch acts as a link to the engine.

Extensive refreshing in the front conveys a more-powerful visual presence, with expanded surfacing—two inches taller at the highest point. The dominant BMW kidney grille is now framed by a single-piece surround with 40% more surface area.

Adjustable vanes (black in the M Sport package on my 745e) between the aluminum satin grille bars open when needed for cooling.

New slender Icon Adaptive Full LED headlights contrasted with the larger grille and included distinctive blue BMW Laserlight on my 745e (\$1,000). The light sources have an unmistakable geometric design and the lenses spread in a unique X

shape. The lights turn with the wheels to illuminate around corners and turns.

The redesigned hood has prominent flat-top contour lines extending from the top of the grille to the trailing edge. Lower front bumper air intakes now have large air deflectors to guide oncoming air over the brake air ducts.

Air curtain/air breathers, with dramatic L-shaped trim strips extending along the lower door edge from a large opening behind the front wheel well, minimize turbulence around wheel openings.

Recognizable hallmark BMW design cues include precisely drawn character lines, a long wheelbase and short overhangs, a flowing roofline and the Hofmeister kink—a low forward bend at the C-pillars.

Slimmer, L-shaped 3-D LED taillights are connected by a very slim light strip (0.2 inches) across the full width of the tailgate, creating a discreet illumination when the daytime driving lights are in operation and a distinctive design at night. Tailpipe surrounds are now wider, Cerium Gray on my 745e.

Several exterior paint colors are available, including the new Bernina Gray Amber Effect metallic, Royal Burgundy Red metallic and Donington Gray metallic (my 745e)—exclusively in the M Sport package (\$3,400) along with an M Sport steering wheel, Anthracite headliner, M illuminated door sills, M pedals and foot rest, 20-inch wheels (five split spokes, silver face, dark pockets), specific aerodynamics, Shadowline exterior trim (dark chrome) and choice of interior trim.

My 745e had Ivory White and Black Nappa leather upholstery with extended appoint-

ments, a distinctive quilt pattern and M piping. Interesting exterior color choices include Cashmere Silver metallic (silver/beige), Imperial Blue metallic (nearly black) and Aventurine Red metallic (sangria).

As the driver approaches the vehicle, a Welcome Light Carpet illuminates the ground on both sides (the light source is on the underbody of the vehicle). Inside, generous space, carefully selected materials, coordinated design details and exclusive workmanship create a luxurious ambience.

Interior trim and styling can be individualized with new exclusive fine woods with metal or high-gloss inlay. My 745e had Ash Grain Black and Red wood (\$1,080), even on the rear console and pillars beside the rear seats.

The redesigned leather steering wheel featured a chrome trim element and modified layout of the multifunction buttons. The button for the heating system is now below the air-bag housing. The updated interior included improvement of the infotainment system with iDrive 7.

Ambient LED lighting in the vicinity of the instrument panel, upper door trim, map pockets on the front seat backs and foot wells gave the cabin a posh feel. Using the iDrive 7 system, occupants could choose from six colors.

Most interestingly, an ambient lighting feature on the rear door frame at the B-pillar combined with the power rear window shades and power rear sunshade (Premium Package, \$3,000) to create an atmospheric lighting effect in the rear. When deactivated, the vertical light source blends in with a high-quality smoked-glass look. The Premium Package also included a head-up display.

An Executive Package (\$2,500) brought a panoramic

sky lounge LED roof with hundreds of embedded light-sources, adding to the atmospheric lighting effect. The package added front ventilated seats, contrast-stitched Nappa leather on the instrument panel and ceramic controls. Ceramic controls replace standard plastic or chrome controls with real ceramic versions with a black glazed finish for an even more luxurious look and feel.

A Luxury Rear Seating Package (\$3,900) added rear ventilated comfort seats, heated steering wheel, front and rear heated seats and armrests, rear massage seats and a removable seven-inch Samsung Touch Command Tablet mounted in the armrest.

The power comfort seats recline, slide fore and aft, raise up and lower, and have lumbar and adjustable shoulder support. The tablet has a Wi-Fi connection to the vehicle and can be used to control infotainment/navigation/online/communication and comfort (seat adjustment, interior lighting, climate) functions, as well as play external audio and video files. The tablet can be left secured in its holder or removed and used from any seat or even outside the vehicle.

The tablet can be used to control the Rear Entertainment system (\$2,700) with two 10-inch HD displays with touch-screen functionality and angle adjustment, Blu-ray player and two wireless headphones with hard storage cases.

Adding to the luxury in the rear, passengers had an amazing 44.4 inches of legroom. Thanks to a longer wheelbase, front passengers also had massive legroom at 41.1 inches.

A standard wireless charging pad was conveniently located at the junction of the center stack and the center console.

New Automatic Parking searches parking options before reaching a destination; Active Driving Assistant includes Collision and Pedestrian/Cyclist Warning with City Braking, Lane Departure Warning Blind Spot Detection, Speed Limit info system, Rear Collision Preparation and Cross Traffic.

Automatic Parking Assistant Plus with surround-view cameras with 3-D view and Active Park Distance Control helps maneuver into either parallel or perpendicular parking spaces, controlling acceleration, braking, steering and gearing. It also has Back-Up Assistant, which helps exit parking spots by following the stored steering pattern from the vehicle's last forward movement.

An optional Driving Assistance Professional package (\$1,700) added Extended Traffic Jam Assistant, Active Cruise Control with Stop and Go, Active Lane Keeping Assistant with side-collision avoidance, Steering and Traffic Jam Assistant, Automatic Lane Change and Evasion Assistant and Cross Traffic alert.

Intelligent Personal Assistant is a digital helper which responds to verbal prompts to control functions such as temperature, lighting mood, music and navigation (BMW, take me home) and even answer questions such as "Is the oil level okay?" or "How far can I drive before I need to refuel?"

My 745e had a Bowers and Wilkins Sound system (\$3,400), M Sport brakes (\$650) and soft-close automatic doors (extra elegant).

Options totaling \$23,330 and destination charges of \$995 brought the delivered price of my very attractive, very comfortable, luxurious BMW 745e to \$119,875.

TNS
The BMW 7 series is updated for 2020 (European model shown). (BMW)

AUTO REVIEW:

BMW

updates the 7-Series sedan line for 2020; plug-in hybrid model added

Life & Style

‘Fleabag,’ ‘Succession,’ ‘Chernobyl’ win top Golden Globes

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Real-life stories ruled the Golden Globe TV honors, as Olivia Colman’s portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II, Michelle Williams’ turn as Broadway star Gwen Verdon and the nuclear disaster drama “Chernobyl” won top honors.

Real-world issues also found their way into Sunday’s ceremony. In accepting the best actress award for the miniseries “Fosse/Verdon,” Williams made abortion and women’s rights the central theme of her remarks.

The actress said her career would not have been possible without “employing a woman’s right to choose. To choose when to have my children and with whom,” adding, “When it’s time to vote, please do so in your own self-interest. It’s what men have been doing for years.”

Russell Crowe, honored for his portrayal of Fox News

architect Roger Ailes in the limited series “The Loudest Voice,” drew Australia’s disastrous fires into the awards show from thousands of miles away.

Crowe was kept from attending because “he’s protecting his family from the devastating bush fires,” said presenter Jennifer Aniston, who read a statement from him.

“Make no mistake, the tragedy unfolding in Australia is climate change based,” Crowe said in part, calling “for respect for our planet for the amazing place it is. That way, we all have a future.”

For Colman, it’s good to be queen. She won a Golden Globe for her performance as British monarch Elizabeth II in “The Crown” after claiming a 2019 Oscar for playing an 18th-century English ruler, Anne, in “The Favourite.”

“I said I had money on this not happening. For the last

This image released by NBC shows Phoebe Waller-Bridge accepting the award for best actress in a comedy series for “Fleabag” at the 77th Annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020. AP

year, I feel like I’ve been living someone else’s life. Now I feel like I definitely won someone else’s award,” said Colman, who succeeded Claire Foy as Queen Elizabeth in the latest season of the series.

“Chernobyl,” which dramatized the devastating nuclear accident in the then-Soviet republic of Ukraine, was honored as best limited series, with cast member Stellan Skarsgård named best actor in

a supporting role in a series, limited series or TV movie.

Patricia Arquette won best TV supporting honors for “The Act,” based on a true crime.

“Fleabag,” which dominated last fall’s Emmy Awards,

was honored as best comedy series and its star-creator Phoebe Waller-Bridge claimed the best actress award.

She credited her co-star, Andrew Scott aka the show’s “Hot Priest,” for their much-lauded chemistry.

Former President Barack Obama also got a shout out from Waller-Bridge for putting “Fleabag” on his 2019 best-of list. “As some of you may know, he’s always been on mine,” she said, playfully, referring curious viewers to season one of her series.

Despite the high praise, Scott didn’t convert his nomination into a supporting actor trophy. But he had starry company in the also-ran category, with Aniston and Reese Witherspoon failing to take home awards for newcomer Apple TV Plus’ “The Morning Show,” Meryl Streep and Nicole Kidman losing for “Big Little Lies,” and Emmy-winning Billy Porter of “Pose” also overlooked.

The broadcast networks, including Globes network host NBC, didn’t have a chance: All of them were shut out of the nominations in an unprecedented sign of the small-screen’s shift to cable and streaming in attention and prestige.

The growing number of streaming platforms, including Apple and Disney Plus, is a dominant media story. But while streamers performed well at the Globes with Netflix’s “The Crown” and Amazon’s “Fleabag” they didn’t shut out cable contenders including FX’s “Fosse/Verdon” and HBO’s “Succession.”

With laughs and tears, Hanks accepts Globes’ DeMille honor

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Just like in his four-decade career, Tom Hanks took the Golden Globes stage providing some laughs before shedding tears as he accepted the Cecil B. DeMille Award.

In a joking manner, Hanks apologized for having a cold that was the “size of Merv Griffin’s ‘Jeopardy’ royalties.” He then looked at a table in the ballroom at the Beverly Hilton Ho-

tel, immediately turned around, leaving some in the attendance confused; he then turned back with tears in his eyes.

“A man is blessed with a family sitting down front like that,” Hanks said to his wife Rita Wilson and his kids at the table with her. “I can’t tell you how much your love means to me.”

He shifted from laughs to tears throughout the rest of the speech.

“It’s the cold,” he said after once again becoming emotional.

A video package of clips from his decades-long career began with Hanks’ guest-starring role in the 1980s television series “The Love Boat.” Though the show was known for cheesy appearances by celebrities with dim star wattage, Hanks ended up becoming one of Hollywood’s biggest beloved actors through an array

brilliant performances, from “Big” to “Forrest Gump.”

“It’s those moments as an actor where everybody I have ever worked with has helped me get to that place,” the double Oscar-winner said. “Sometimes it’s 3 o’clock in the morning and sometimes it’s 11 at night in which you just have to somehow put it all together, have faith in what the process is and go there.”

Charlize Theron, who presented the award to Hanks, praised him for his career achievements. She also thanked Hanks for her first audition for “That Thing You Do!,” a 1996 film he directed.

“While Tom does give us the chance to see ourselves on the screen, he also gives us something more profound,” Theron said. “He presents a vision of who we can be. He saw a nervous, sweaty young actress failing to mask a panic attack and her thick South African accent. That’s the kind of man he is. This is why we love Tom.”

The DeMille award is given annually to an “individual who has made an incredible impact on the world of entertainment.” Recent recipients Oprah Winfrey, Meryl Streep, Jeff Bridges and George Clooney.

Hanks, 63, is a four-time Golden Globe winner who broke through with his role in the 1984 film “Splash,” in which he played a man who falls in love with a mermaid. He claimed his first Globe in 1988 for “Big,” in which he portrayed a 13-year-old boy whose body turned into a 35-year-old man overnight after making a wish.

The actor won a couple Globes for “Philadelphia” and “Forrest Gump,” two films that earned him Academy Awards. He was also lauded for his directing work in HBO’s 2001 miniseries “Band of Brothers,” which won an Emmy.

In 2014, Hanks received an award at the Kennedy Center Honors. He also was given a lifetime achievement award by the American Film Institute in 2009.

Hanks was nominated at Sunday’s Globes for his role as Mister Rogers in the biopic “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood.” His other upcoming projects include the WWII drama “Greyhound,” which he wrote; the post-apocalyptic “BIOS”; and the post-Civil War film “News of the World.”



Tom Hanks, winner of the Cecil B. deMille Award, poses in the press room at the 77th annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, in Beverly Hills, Calif.



Globes special award: DeGeneres thanks 'power of television'

NEW YORK (AP)—Ellen DeGeneres turned her spotlight at the Golden Globe Awards into a very personal stand-up routine, gently mocking traditional award show speeches and ultimately thanking “the power of television.”

The pioneering sitcom star, TV talk-show host and game-show MC was handed the Globes’ new TV special achievement trophy Sunday, joking she was relieved she didn’t have to worry.

“It’s a prestigious award, and what I like most about it is I knew coming in, I would win,” she said. “There’s nothing worse than sitting there and like waiting most of you waiting and wondering if you’re going to win.”

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association bestowed the Carol Burnett Award—the small-screen version of the group’s film counterpart, the Cecil B. DeMille Award—to DeGeneres as someone “who has made outstanding contributions to television on or off the screen.” The first Carol Burnett Award last year fittingly went to Burnett herself, who sat beside DeGeneres.

Kate McKinnon, a “Saturday Night Live” veteran, introduced DeGeneres and credited her with helping her feel that a lesbian could accomplish anything on TV. “She really risked her entire life and her entire career in order to tell the truth and she suffered greatly for it.”

DeGeneres’s show “Ellen” became a historic landmark in TV history in the 1990s when her character came out as gay. She currently hosts two series—her popular syndicated

talk show, “The Ellen DeGeneres Show,” and an NBC game show, “Ellen’s Game of Games.” In 2016, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from Barack Obama.

Once she got onstage, DeGeneres honored Australians dealing with devastating fires and then pretended to tell her life story, spending plenty of time on the day she was born and the kind of car that brought her home from the hospital. (“I don’t have to end at all because it’s a special award,” she said.) Then she fast-forwarded:

“I had a sitcom. And I lost that sitcom. Then I had another sitcom, and I lost that sitcom, too,” she said. “I got to do something I always wanted to do: make whiskey. Then I got a talk show. I got a talk show. And I was able to be myself. I feel like you all have gotten to know me. I’m an open book.”

DeGeneres then poked fun at her sexuality, thanking a man who doesn’t exist.

“I couldn’t have done it without my husband Mark. Mark, you are my rock,” DeGeneres said to big laughs from the audience, including her wife, actress Portia de Rossi. She then jokingly thanked her fake kids and told them to go to bed.

DeGeneres concluded that she feels good when she is able to make viewers feel good and laugh. But she feels even better when viewers are inspired to do the same thing in their own lives—“make people laugh or be kind or help someone who is less fortunate than themselves. And that is the power of television and I’m so, so grateful to be a part of it.”



Ellen DeGeneres, winner of the Carol Burnett award, poses in the press room at the 77th annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, in Beverly Hills, Calif. AP



Dakota Fanning arrives at the 77th annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, in Beverly Hills, Calif. AP

Plenty of pink, puffy sleeves and shimmer at Golden Globes

NEW YORK (AP)—There was plenty of pink, puffy sleeves and a touch of neon on the Golden Globes red carpet as the stars shimmered and shined Sunday on one of the award season’s biggest nights for fashion.

And then there was Jennifer Lopez, in Valentino Couture with a huge gold and emerald green bow at the bodice, her hair piled high in high braided bun and her jewels—all 145 carats of Colombian emeralds and 58 diamonds—courtesy of Harry Winston.

The Lopez look included a voluminous white gown under that statement bow. While she toted plenty of fabric, Gwyneth Paltrow was traveling light in a bronze, two-piece Fendi look of sheers over sheers. Skin was exposed with a statement necklace thrown into the mix.

Reese Witherspoon (white Roland Mouret), Jennifer Anniston (black Dior) and Nicole Kidman were among the stars who went classic Hollywood. Charlize Theron took a risk that paid off with a draped sash on one shoulder in neon green and a black bustier underneath.

Pink had a moment in soft hues for Kirsten Dunst (Rodarte) and Dakota Fanning. Isla Fisher and Tiffany Haddish went for bold hot pink, while Margot Robbie showed

off a burst of encrusted color in a strapless top with a white column skirt below by Chanel, her hair loose and beach wavy.

Chokers were abundant, from Theron to Cynthia Erivo, the latter wearing a huge blue stone at the center of her short necklace.

Erivo’s hand-beaded custom Thom Browne gown was tuxedo inspired in black and white. The “Harriet” star and fashion standout said the dress includes designs of her favorite flower, the peony, at the hem and in her lining. The short-sleeve look took 800 hours to create.

Jodie Comer, from “Killing Eve,” sported another fashion trend of the evening—puffy sleeves—in emerald green. Kidman represented for the reds in a strapless look with subtle draping and a short train. So did Scarlett Johansson in a longer train and bustle bow custom look in crimson from Vera Wang and Olivia Colman in custom raspberry from the Emilia Wickstead Collection (big sleeves, check).

Lucy Boynton, a proven young Hollywood fashion star, wore a silk and velvet custom Louis Vuitton embroidered with glass beads. It had a high collar, strong shoulders and was belted at the waist. Gugu Mbatha-Raw stunned in metallic golden

yellow sequin dress from Gucci, her hair cropped, while Zoe Kravitz went for dots—smaller ones on top and large ones on the bottom of her dress, courtesy of Saint Laurent by Anthony Vaccarello.

Kravitz wasn’t the only star to reach for a pattern. Taylor Swift showed up in a power print from Etro. It was a custom look in navy silk jacquard with a floral design of huge blooms. Cate Blanchett went architectural in a Mary Katrantzou gown.

Renee Zellweger, who stars in “Judy,” chose a strapless soft hue of blue, and Kerry Washington was bold in a black look with an open chest covered in a bedazzled strap design secured on mesh for a near naked look, thanks to Altuzarra. Michelle Williams was dressed in Louis Vuitton, a custom look in soft orange with one dropped shoulder.

And the men?

Andrew Scott, the “hot priest” from “Fleabag,” left his cream tuxedo jacket unbuttoned for interviews and wore a huge smile on his face during his first trip to the Globes, a dark curl falling over his forehead.

The kids also represented. The night’s youngest nominee, 12-year-old Roman Griffin Davis of “Jojo Rabbit,” took it all in while wearing a bright orange

velvet tuxedo jacket with black lapels and bow tie.

Billy Porter, the “Pose” nominee and fashion trailblazer, failed to disappoint in an epic long train in cream. It was adorned with white feathers and attached to a tuxedo jacket in the same hue. It’s a custom look by Alex Vinash and—bonus—the train zips off.

“It is a dinner and I do have to sit down,” he smiled.

Porter’s gear took three months to create, well before nominations were announced.

“It’s really odd to have to work on clothes before you’re even nominated,” he said.

The gender-bending star and singer carried a mirrored bag by Emm Kuo, with a diamond dragon fly on one lapel by Tiffany & Co.

Fred Leighton had a big night, providing jewels for Meryl Streep, Aniston, Kidman, Dunst and Rooney Mara, to name a few. So did Harry Winston, who also adorned Helen Mirren (\$4 million worth), and Joey King, along with a slew of others.

King wore one of the evening’s most interesting looks: An optical swirl of black and white stripes. It was a short dress with a ruffled cape effect and a delicate high collar that continued the lines. The designer was Iris van Herpen Haute Couture.

Weinstein's reckoning: Trial looms 2 years after #MeToo wave

NEW YORK (AP)—More than two years after a wave of sexual assault allegations against Harvey Weinstein ushered in the #MeToo movement, the disgraced movie mogul faces another reckoning: a criminal trial that could him put him behind bars for the rest of his life.

Jury selection is scheduled to start this week in New York City in a case involving allegations that Weinstein raped one woman in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013 and performed a forcible sex act on a different woman in 2006.

It is the only criminal case to arise from dozens of allegations against the Oscar-winning film producer. Weinstein, 67, has pleaded not guilty and maintains any sexual activity was consensual.

At least one Hollywood actress is expected to testify against Weinstein, and several other accusers have said they plan to attend the trial, which

could last about four weeks once a jury is picked.

Among the accusers planning to attend the trial is actress Rosanna Arquette, who has accused Weinstein of derailing her career after she resisted his advances, which he denies.

"I've always believed in redemption and I always believed in forgiveness and I want to live like that as a human being in my heart and resonate in that. But the lengths he went to destroy so many people's lives," she told The Associated Press. "That's deep. It's control, it's power."

Among those who won't be inside the courtroom is Rose McGowan. The actress, one of Weinstein's most vocal accusers, says he raped her more than 20 years ago and ruined her career. He has denied it.

"I do know that we're at a really pivotal moment in history, and that the eyes of the world are watching," she told the AP.

Weinstein's lawyer has ar-



stein's arrest and initial court appearances in 2018.

In a statement issued at the time, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. praised the "extraordinary courage" of Weinstein's accusers said he was confident jurors would reject defense attacks on their credibility.

Weinstein's trial is expected to share some similarities with the first big trial of the #MeToo era. That ended in Bill Cosby's conviction for drugging and molesting a woman in 2004.

As in that case, prosecutors are angling to make Weinstein's trial a referendum on his behavior with women over many decades, not just in the two instances that led to criminal charges. Prosecutors had charged Weinstein with assaulting a third woman but later dropped that charge after it was alleged that a police detective had coached a corroborating witness.

The most serious charges against Weinstein, two counts

In this July 11, 2019 file photo, Harvey Weinstein, left, and attorney Donna Rotunno arrive at court for a hearing related to his sexual assault case in New York. Weinstein is set to go on trial Monday, Jan. 6, 2020 more than two years after a torrent of women began accusing him of misconduct.

gued the case is weak and said she plans to aggressively cross-examine the accusers.

"Just because a woman makes a claim doesn't mean it's true," lawyer Donna Rotunno said after a pretrial hearing last month. "Just because Mr. Weinstein has been accused of a crime, that does not mean he's guilty."

Prosecutors have not commented publicly on the case since around the time of Wein-

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sive per-theater average of \$53,100.

And though it was overlooked by the Globes, the Safdie brothers' "Uncut Gems," starring Adam Sandler, is becoming one of A24's biggest box-office successes. It grossed \$7.8 million in its fourth and widest weekend of release, bringing its domestic overall total to \$36.8 million.

Ahead of Sunday evening's Golden Globes, a handful of contenders added momentum.

Rian Johnson's "Knives Out"

Out" held better than any other film in the top 10, dropping just 9% and grossing \$9 million in its sixth weekend. Its global tally stands at \$247.5 million.

Sam Mendes' war film

"1917" is poised for its national expansion next week after a second weekend of packed theaters in limited release. It took in \$590,000 at 11 theaters, good for an impres-

of predatory sexual assault that carry a mandatory life sentence, require that prosecutors demonstrate Weinstein had a habit of violating women.

For that, prosecutors plan to call actress Annabella Sciorra, who says Weinstein forced himself inside her Manhattan apartment in 1993 or 1994 and raped her after she starred in a film for his movie studio.

But they also want jurors to hear from some of the more than 75 women who have come forward publicly to accuse Weinstein of sexual misconduct ranging from harassment to assault. The first allegations were brought to light by The New York Times and The New Yorker in October 2017.

In the Cosby case, five women testified that the now 82-year-old comedian drugged and violated them over the years. That was in addition to the woman at the heart of the criminal charges, Andrea Constand.

2020 box office starts off with 'Star Wars' still on top

NEW YORK (AP)—The box office in 2020 started off where last year left off: with "Star Wars: Rise of Skywalker" still on top.

After a historic year, the Walt Disney Co. opened the new year approaching one milestone and surpassing another. With \$33.7 million over its third weekend in U.S. and Canada theaters according to studio estimates Sunday, "Rise of Skywalker" (\$918.8 million) is closing in on \$1 billion worldwide. While it appears unlikely to match the hauls of the trilogy's previous entries, "Rise of Skywalker" will mark a record seventh \$1 billion 2019 release for Disney.

One of those other six blockbusters, "Frozen 2," on

Sunday reached \$1.33 billion, making it the highest grossing film ever directed by a woman in worldwide ticket sales. Jennifer Lee, who co-directed both "Frozen" films with Chris Buck and who now runs Disney Animation, surpasses her own record from the first "Frozen" (\$1.28 billion). "Frozen 2" also charts as the highest grossing animated film, so long as you don't count last year's "Lion King" (\$1.66 billion). Disney considers that remake live-action even though it was largely computer generated.

Holiday holdovers stayed strong, led by a pair of Sony Pictures releases.

"Jumanji: The Next Level" added \$26.5 million in its fourth

week, bringing its domestic total to \$236 million and its global gross past \$600 million.

Greta Gerwig's "Little Women," meanwhile, is becoming an outright hit. The Louisa May Alcott adaptation has been the top adult-oriented choice through the busy holiday season. With \$13.6 million in its second weekend and strong business overseas, "Little Women" has grossed \$80 million worldwide in two weeks. It was made for a modest \$40 million.

The week's only new release also came from Sony. "The Grudge," a horror reboot of the 2004 remake produced by Sam Raimi, opened with \$11.3 million. That was a fair total for a movie that cost \$10

million to make and received some withering reaction from critics and audiences. "The Grudge" scored just 18% on Rotten Tomatoes and engendered a rarely seen F CinemaScore from moviegoers.

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was down 4% from 2018, Hollywood began 2020 on the upswing. Ticket sales were up 7.2% from the same weekend last year, according to data firm Comscore.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included.

1. "Star Wars: Rise of Skywalker," \$33.7 million (\$50.5 million international).	5. "Frozen 2," \$11.3 million (\$42.4 million international).
2. "Jumanji: The Next Level," \$26.5 million (\$42.4 million international).	6. "Spies in Disguise," \$10.1 million (\$15.8 million international).
3. "Little Women," \$13.6 million (\$9.5 million international).	7. "Knives Out," \$9 million (\$8.8 million international).
4. "The Grudge," \$11.3 million (\$5.8 million international).	8. "Uncut Gems," \$7.8 million.
	9. "Bombshell," \$4.1 million.
	10. "Cats," \$2.6 million (\$4.3 million international).

Man's family treats him as a second-class citizen

EAR ABBY: I have been married to a wonderful man for 33 years. He doesn't drink or smoke and has never used pot or drugs. We have the best time together, love each other and enjoy our life together.

The trouble is his family. He's the youngest, and they treat him like an outsider. Whenever we get together, his mother often tells him he was a "surprise" baby, and his siblings treat him like an interloper.

I have been wanting to limit our contact with his family, and my husband, who has been loyal to them even though they treat him this way, is finally coming around. I don't want to be rude, but his family will never change their ways. What's the most polite way of distancing ourselves without hurting anyone?

OUTSIDER'S WIFE

DEAR WIFE: The "polite way" is to tell the relatives you can't see them because you have a schedule conflict, a previous commitment, a trip planned, a sick pet, or think you may be coming down with something contagious and don't want to give it to them. The BETTER way would be for you AND YOUR HUSBAND to tell them you don't like the way they treat him and if it continues, they will see much less of both of you.

DEAR ABBY: I have been at my current job just over a year, and I really enjoy it. My co-workers and I get along, and it is a

great job for my skill set.

When I was interviewing for the position, I made a point of saying that I am not the type of person who will leave after a short while because it's a problem employers face where I live. Recently, however, I have been asked to help my father run his business. He's not a young man, and he genuinely needs the help I can provide.

I'm torn. Should I put my family first, or keep my promise not to leave this job after such a short time?

TORN IN COLORADO

DEAR TORN: I think you already know what you must do. Talk to your boss, explain the situation and apologize. Then give enough notice that a replacement can be found so you are not leaving your employer in the lurch.

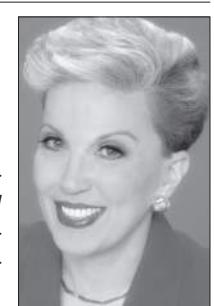
DEAR ABBY: My husband and I recently lost our beloved pet of 12 years, "Bootsy." He was our first "fur baby." His death was very sudden, and we are devastated. We don't have children; it was as if he was our firstborn. What can we do to get through the death of our beloved dog-child?

SUFFERING IN THE SOUTH

DEAR SUFFERING: I am sorry for your loss. An unfor-

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



tunate aspect of being emotionally invested in a pet is the reality that they have much shorter lifespans than humans do. Start the healing process by reminding each other that you gave Bootsy the best life possible. Consider making a contribution in his name to an animal rescue organization. Then contact the veterinarian who cared for Bootsy about joining a grief support group to help you through this time of bereavement.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-006
SUBMISSION DATE: January 23, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"Repair and Renovation of CK Basketball Court District 1 Chalan Kanoa, Saipan"

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A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **January 10, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the CK Basketball Court District 1 Chalan Kanoa, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 16, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

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/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Employer: Kylie's Bakery, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan
Position: Baker

Job Duties: Prepare, mix and bake ingredients to produce breads, rolls, cookies, cakes, pies, pastries or other baked goods.

- Roll dough in dough roller machine manually.
- Place dough in pans, molds, or on sheets and bake in production ovens manually.
- Place finished baked goods on a tray or plastic bags.
- Clean pans or molders after use.
- Prepare bread crumbs.
- Clean oven, mixer and dough roller machines after used.
- Prepare flour and other ingredients a day before production time (this includes lifting 20 lbs. or less of flour and other ingredients).
- Monitor supplies for replenishment.
- Clean production area all the time.
- Clean, arrange and organize stocks.

Qualifications/Requirements: Graduation from High School or completion of a GED Program with one (1) year of skilled experience as a baker with skills in operating commercial mixers, commercial dough rollers and 24-tray commercial gas ovens. Incumbent must have or be able to obtain a CNMI food handler certificate.

Application can be made in person at Blue Spot Corporation, Satmonete Lane, Afetna Village, San Antonio or by telephone at 670-285-2253, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by mail to Blue Spot Corporation, P.O. Box 506343, Saipan, MP 96950 or by email to bluespotcorp@gmail.com.

Employer: Blue Spot Corp., Satmonete Ln, Afetna Village, San Antonio, Saipan MP 96950

Position: Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines

Job Duties: Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul mobile mechanical, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, backhoes and other heavy equipment.

- Repair and replace damaged or worn parts.
- Test mechanical products and equipment after repair or assembly to ensure proper performance and compliance with manufacturers' specifications.
- Operate and inspect machines or heavy equipment to diagnose defects.
- Read and understand operating manuals, blueprints, and technical drawings.
- Dismantle and reassemble heavy equipment using hoists and hand tools.
- Perform routine maintenance on equipment and determine when and what kind of maintenance is needed.
- Watch gauges, dials, or other indicators to make sure a machine is working properly. Service, repair, adjust, and test machines, devices, moving parts, and equipment that operate primarily on the basis of mechanical (not electronic) principles.
- Calibrate using calibration machine.
- Supervise assigned mechanic.

Qualifications/Requirements: Graduation from High School or completion of a GED Program with two (2) years of highly skilled experience as a heavy equipment mechanic in the maintenance and repair of mobile heavy equipment and the calibration of heavy equipment with a calibration machine.

Application can be made in person at Blue Spot Corporation, Satmonete Lane, Afetna Village, San Antonio or by telephone at 670-285-2253, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by mail to Blue Spot Corporation, P.O. Box 506343, Saipan, MP 96950 or by email to bluespotcorp@gmail.com.

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Vikings nip Saints in OT; Seahawks oust Eagles



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Working overtime paid off for Minnesota and Houston this weekend.

Seattle avoided the extra session and made it a wild-card bonanza, with three of the four road teams winning.

One day after the Texans rallied from a 16-0 deficit to beat Buffalo 22-19 in an AFC wild-card game, the Vikings stunned New Orleans 26-20 on Sunday.

Then fifth-seeded Seattle edged undermanned Philadelphia 17-9.

The Texans (11-6) will travel to Kansas City (12-4) next Sunday in the divisional round. Tennessee (10-7), which ended New England's run of three straight Super Bowl appearances with its victory Saturday at Foxboro, gets a trip to Baltimore (14-2) next Saturday night.

Seattle (12-5) goes to Green Bay (13-3) next Sunday because Minnesota's victory meant it would head to top-seeded San Francisco next Saturday.

Kirk Cousins hit tight end Kyle Rudolph with a 4-yard fade on third-and-goal on the only drive of overtime. Minnesota (11-6) had blown a 20-10 lead before marching 75 yards in nine plays to win. Cousins' 43-yard completion to Adam Thielen got the ball to the Saints 2-yard line to set up the winning score.

"I'm so proud of our team, the way we fought," Rudolph said. "We knew it wasn't going to be easy coming here. We expected 60 minutes and we got a little bit more. I'm so proud of our guys. Nobody gave us a chance to win here today—except everybody in our organization. We believed."

Both No. 6 seeds went on the road and won for the second straight year. Not only were both No. 3 seeds eliminated, but their forty-something Hall of Fame caliber quarterbacks, the Saints' Drew Brees and the Patriots Tom Brady, took quick exits.

The Vikings faded in December, losing three of five outings to fall short in the NFC North behind Green Bay and wind up as the lowest NFC seed. But with a staunch defense and strong pass rush that had Brees and the Saints off-balance for much of the game, it appeared Minnesota would not need extra time.

Then Brees found Taysom Hill for a 20-yard touchdown to cap an 85-yard drive, and Wil Lutz made a 49-yard field goal in the dying seconds to force overtime.

It was the second straight time the Saints' season had



AP Minnesota Vikings tight end Kyle Rudolph (82) pulls in the game winning touchdown pass over New Orleans Saints cornerback P.J. Williams (26) during overtime of an NFL wild-card playoff game, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, in New Orleans.

this season.

Wilson threw for 325 yards and led the team with 45 yards rushing. Metcalf had seven catches for 160 yards.

The Seahawks had a season-high seven sacks from six players.

"We made up our mind to not let them score," All-Pro linebacker Bobby Wagner said. "It was a mental thing more than execution."

Wilson drove Seattle 82 yards late in the second quarter and Lynch powered in from the 5 for a 10-0 lead.

Wilson connected with Metcalf for 26 yards and David Moore for 38 on third-down, catch-and-run passes to keep that drive going.

McCown finally got the offense going on the opening drive of the third quarter. He connected with Zach Ertz for 32 yards and Boston Scott ran 15 yards to the 5. But a false start, fumbled snap and sack followed. Jake Elliott's 26-yard field goal cut the deficit to 10-6.

The Seahawks answered quickly. Metcalf stretched to catch Wilson's deep pass, got up and tumbled into the end zone for a 17-6 lead.

"I caught the ball, I didn't feel anybody touch me," Metcalf said. "I got back up and I wanted a touchdown. I wanted a touchdown, real bad."

Down 17-9, Eagles coach Doug Pederson passed up a 42-yard field goal attempt with 6:24 left and went for fourth-and-4 from the Seahawks 24. Miles Sanders couldn't catch McCown's pass.

Philadelphia had another chance after Sheldon Gibson, just signed earlier in the week, drew a 39-yard pass interference penalty to the Seahawks 13.

On fourth-and-7 from the 10 with two minutes left, Clowney sacked McCown.

Wentz was forced to watch from the sideline following knee surgery when Foles led the Eagles to the franchise's first Super Bowl title two years ago. He was out with a back injury last year when Foles led Philadelphia to a wild-card win in Chicago.

The Eagles were decimated by injuries throughout the season and had to rely on five offensive players off the practice squad during a four-game winning streak that sealed the NFC East title.

Cowboys part ways with coach after missing playoffs

FRISCO, Texas (AP)—The Dallas Cowboys made official Sunday night what they had already signaled: Jason Garrett is out as coach.

Garrett was informed he wouldn't be back for a 10th full season on the same day the Cowboys finished an interview with former Green Bay coach Mike McCarthy, who won a Super Bowl with the Packers on Dallas' home field nine years ago.

Owner/general manager Jerry Jones decided not to renew Garrett's expiring contract because Super Bowl-winning quarterback Troy Aikman's former backup couldn't get the Cowboys back to football's biggest stage, an absence that's approaching a quarter-century.

At 9+ seasons, the 53-year-old Garrett had the club's second-longest tenure behind Pro Football Hall of Famer

Tom Landry, who coached the Cowboys for the franchise's first 29 years before Jones fired him when he bought the team in 1989.

Dallas finished 8-8 for the fourth time under Garrett. The Cowboys fueled high preseason expectations with a 3-0 start before dropping eight of 12 and losing control of their playoff fate. Dallas missed the playoffs six times in Garrett's nine full seasons.

The inevitable conclusion was a difficult one for Jones, who hired Garrett as offensive coordinator in 2007 even before choosing Wade Phillips as coach. Garrett got the interim job when Phillips was fired halfway through the 2010 season.

Garrett's record is 87-70, playoffs included.

"We are extremely grateful to Jason Garrett for his more than 20 years of service to the

Dallas Cowboys as a player, assistant coach and head coach," Jones said in a statement released by the team that ended a week of speculation on the future of Garrett, who continued showing up at team headquarters after the season ended.

"His level of commitment, character and dedication to this organization has been outstanding at every stage of his career."

With Garrett's status unresolved publicly, the Cowboys interviewed McCarthy and former Cincinnati coach Marvin Lewis over the weekend.

McCarthy reached the playoffs nine times in 13 seasons with the Packers, reaching the NFC championship game four times. Green Bay won at least 10 games eight times in his first 11 seasons before going 7-9 in 2017. McCarthy was fired with the

Packers at 4-7-1 last season.

The biggest knock on Lewis was his 0-7 playoff record with the Bengals. He had a 131-122-3 record in the regular season and was fired after a third straight losing season in 2018.

Dallas hasn't been past the divisional round of the playoffs in 24 straight seasons since the club's fifth Super Bowl title to finish the 1995 season. Garrett got them within a victory of the NFC championship game three times in five years, losing to Green Bay twice and then the Los Angeles Rams last season.

When training camp opened, Jones didn't want to talk about what it would take for Garrett to get another contract. It had been five years since Garrett was coaching for his job and the Cowboys went 12-4 and won a wild-card game before a loss at the Packers.

Nick Foles wasn't around to rescue Philadelphia this time.

"I didn't intend to hurt him. I hope he's OK," Clowney said.

Referee Shawn Smith told a pool reporter: "He was a runner and he did not give himself up. We saw incidental helmet contact, and in our judgment, we didn't rule it a foul."

Forty-year-old Josh McCown stepped in, becoming the oldest quarterback to make his playoff debut. But he couldn't lead the Eagles (9-8) into the end zone.

"I didn't get the job done," said McCown, who was quite emotional on the field afterward.

The Seahawks (12-5) lost three of their final four games, including a 26-21 defeat at home against San Francisco in Week 17 that cost them the NFC West title.

But they traveled to Philadelphia for the second time in six weeks and became the third team to win on the road this weekend, improving to 8-1 away from home

ended in OT in the Superdome. New Orleans (13-4) fell to the Los Angeles Rams in the NFC championship game last January, damaged greatly by an egregious missed penalty call.

Seahawks 17, Eagles 9

In Philadelphia, Jadeveon Clowney knocked out Carson Wentz. Then, Russell Wilson and the Seattle Seahawks knocked off the Eagles.

Wilson threw a 53-yard touchdown pass to DK Met-

Lakers block 20 shots, hold off Pistons



LOS ANGELES (AP)—After Dwight Howard blocked Andre Drummond's shot with a perfect combination of timing and athleticism, he wagged a Mutombo finger at the uproarious Staples Center crowd.

The rest of the Lakers took off on a fast break that left them with a double-digit lead over Detroit in the fourth quarter.

Although that lead vanished and the game got a whole lot scarier, the Lakers' historically huge block party propelled them to another win.

LeBron James had 21 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists, and Anthony Davis had eight of the Lakers' 20 blocked shots in their fifth straight victory, 106-99 over the Detroit Pistons on Sunday night.

By the time the Lakers' three big men were done swatting almost everything they could get their hands on, the Lakers had blocked more shots than any NBA team since March 2001.

"We were just protecting the paint," said Davis, who finished two blocks shy of his career high. "Last game (against New Orleans), we gave up 60-something points in the paint. It's something we don't like doing, and we tried to make an emphasis tonight on protecting the paint."

That's an understatement: JaVale McGee blocked six shots, and Howard had four of his five blocks in the fourth quarter as the Lakers finished one blocked shot short of their franchise record. Los Angeles had 21 blocks against Denver in April 1982.

Howard swatted Drummond twice in the final quarter, and he didn't regret playing to the fans.

"I was just in the moment, trying to get the crowd going," said Howard, who added 11 points and nine rebounds. "Detroit had hit some big shots, and we needed a lift. AD, he inspired me to want to go out there and try to get as many as I can."

Davis scored 11 of his 24 points in the final 3:40 and added 11 rebounds for the Lakers, who blew a late 11-point lead and nearly lost to a team with a losing record for the first time all season. Instead, Alex Caruso scored 13 points while they hung on to remain unbeaten since Christmas.

"Our three big guys just played exceptional basketball," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "Those guys took a lot of pride in protecting our rim tonight."

James finished with his 90th career triple-double, his ninth of the season and his second in five days.



Derrick Rose scored 28 points and former Lakers guard Svi Mykhailiuk had 14 -- one off his career high—for the Pistons, who have lost nine of 11 despite a strong effort against the Western Conference leaders.

"Everything has got to go right to beat the top team in the league," Pistons coach Dwane Casey said. "We played well, but we made just enough mistakes."

Drummond added 12 points on 2-of-13 shooting and 18 rebounds before fouling out late, and the Pistons finished the California portion of their six-game road trip with a heartbreaker.

"There's a reason they're the No. 1 team in the league blocking shots," Rose said. "They've got great length, but it's not going to change the way we play our game. We've got a chance to learn from our mistakes."

Heat 122, Trail Blazers 111

In Miami, Goran Dragic had 29 points and 13 assists, Bam Adebayo added 20 points on 9-for-10 shooting and Miami never trailed.

Dragic tied a career best with seven 3-pointers. Derrick Jones Jr. scored 19 points for the Heat, who got 14 from Kendrick Nunn and 12 points in 22 minutes from little-used James Johnson—who was called upon largely because Miami was without Jimmy Butler.

Tyler Herro scored 11 points for Miami, as did Meyers Leonard in his first game

against his former team.

Damian Lillard led Portland with 34 points and 12 assists. Former Heat center Hassan Whiteside, booed almost every time he touched the ball, finished with 21 points and 18 rebounds for Portland. Anfernee Simons scored 19 points off the bench.

Miami improved the NBA's best home record to 17-1—two wins shy of its home total for 41 games last season—and is 10-0 after losses.

Both teams were missing starters unexpectedly. Miami

was without Butler, who was ruled out because of back soreness. Portland's CJ McCollum was out with an upper-respiratory infection.

Timberwolves 118, Cavaliers 103

In Cleveland, Gorgui Dieng scored 22 points, Shabazz Napier had 21 and Minnesota blew a 25-point lead before regrouping to beat the Cavaliers.

Cleveland rested disgruntled forward Kevin Love and may have lost rookie Kevin Porter Jr. for an extended pe-

riod with a knee injury.

Andrew Wiggins came back after missing four games with the flu and scored 15 points for the Timberwolves. They won for just the fourth time in 16 games.

Dante Exum, recently acquired in a trade with Utah, scored a career-high 28 points —24 in the second half—for the Cavs. They dropped their fourth in a row amid drama surrounding Love, whose absence for rest came a night after he showed frustration toward teammates in a loss to

AP
Los Angeles Lakers center Dwight Howard, left, rejects a shot by Detroit Pistons forward Sekou Doumbouya during the second half of an NBA game, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, in Los Angeles.

Oklahoma City.

Clippers 135, Knicks 132

In Los Angeles, Montrezl Harrell scored 34 points, Paul George and Lou Williams added 32 apiece and Los Angeles bounced back from an ugly loss to beat New York.

A day after a 26-point loss to Memphis in another matinee, the Clippers had at least three players score at least 30 points for the first time in franchise history.

Marcus Morris led New York with 38 points. RJ Barrett added 24.

Grizzlies 121, Suns 114

In Phoenix, Jonas Valanciunas scored 30 points, Dillon Brooks added 19 and Memphis won its second game in two days, holding off the Suns.

Valanciunas shot 12 of 16 from the field, and Brooks made five 3-pointers before fouling out in the final minute. Jaren Jackson Jr. had 15 points and eight rebounds. Memphis has won five of its past eight games, including two of three on its current trip.

Devin Booker led the Suns with 40 points to break the franchise record for consecutive games with at least 30 with six. Charles Barkley and Charlie Scott shared the previous mark.

Japan, Nishioka keep surprises coming at ATP Cup

AUSTRALIA—Yoshihito Nishioka notched his second upset to start the season after downing world No. 26 Nikoloz Basilashvili in straight sets Monday, as injury-hit Japan continued to surprise at the ATP Cup.

The world No. 72 won, 6-2, 6-3 in Perth to clinch the tie for unbeaten Japan after Go Soeda prevailed over Georgia's Aleksandre Metreveli, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Japan, who whitewashed Uruguay on Saturday, surprisingly top Group B in the 24-nation event despite the withdrawal of injured star Kei Nishikori and Yasutaka Uchiyama, their third best player, before the tournament.

The Top 8 countries from the round robin go onto a knockout phase in Sydney.

Nishioka, 24, has relished the extra responsibility, having beaten Basilashvili and world number 45 Pablo Cue-

vas, who he thrashed 6-0, 6-1 on Saturday.

"I think I played my best tennis and very happy about this," he said of his win against the Georgian.

The left-handed Nishioka's pinpoint accuracy rattled Basilashvili, who constantly misfired in an error-strewn first set before settling.

Basilashvili broke in the third game of the second set but was unable to consolidate, as Nishioka overcame service struggles of his own to prevail in straight sets.

In the earlier match, veteran Soeda was made to work by Metreveli, who rebounded after a horror debut at the ATP level when he failed to win a game against Spanish Roberto Bautista Agut on Saturday.

Metreveli, ranked 678, was broken early before finally getting on the board in the fourth game to ignite his con-

fidence. He then broke back before dictating with aggressive groundstrokes to claim his first set on tour.

Both players struggled to hold serve in a see-saw start to the second set, but Soeda levelled the match after taking advantage of Metreveli's susceptible forehand and cruised from there.

"I was really tight in the first set, but I tried to focus after that," Soeda said. "There was so much pressure to win for the team, so I was nervous."

Soeda replaced Nishikori, who pulled out of the tournament and the Australian Open with an elbow problem.

In other results, former U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic had too much experience for No. 448-ranked Kacper Zuk, setting up Croatia's victory over Poland with a 7-6 (8), 6-4 win.

Two-time Grand Slam fi-

nalist Kevin Anderson led South Africa to a victory over Chile in Group A at Brisbane, keeping his team in contention for the playoffs despite an opening loss to Serbia.

Cilic, who has a career-high ranking of No. 3 but slipped to 38 after an injury-shortened 2019 season, has now won both his singles matches in Sydney at the new international men's team event.

Zuk was making his tour-level debut but tested Cilic, who was only able to convert one of his 13 break point chances.

Hubert Hurkacz beat Borana Coric 6-2, 6-2 to split the singles results, but Croatia pair Ivan Dodig and Nikola Mekic clinched the encounter with a 6-2, 6-1 win in the doubles over Hurkacz and Lukasz Kubot.

Croatia leads the Group E with two wins from two ahead of Argentina's night match against Austria in Sydney.

Thomas grabs a win he thought he had lost

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)— Justin Thomas began the new year mildly disappointed by not having won more than he already has on the PGA Tour.

That's not to suggest he ever thought it was easy.

Sunday at Kapalua was proof of that.

Thomas won the Sentry Tournament of Champions in a three-man playoff over Patrick Reed and Xander Schauffele for his third victory in his last six starts on the PGA Tour, and the 12th of his career. Thomas, 26, now has more victories than any active players younger than 30.

That took time to digest, mainly because of how he got to No. 12.

He birdied six out of eight holes to turn a two-shot deficit into a two-shot lead with three holes to play.

"Through 15 holes, it was one of the best rounds I had played," he said.

He fell into a playoff by hitting at toe-hook off the tee at the par-5 18th, followed by a 3-wood that landed in knee-high vegetation so thick that a nine-member search party couldn't find it. He made bogey.

"I botched it up pretty badly," he said.

Schauffele became only the fourth player in the final round to reach the 18th green, a 3-wood that left him a 35-foot eagle attempt. He three-putted for par, missing a 7-foot putt for the win.

Thomas, who had stood off the green with his cap removed and his head bowed anticipating defeat, suddenly had another chance. It also gave life to Reed, who nearly an hour earlier had made a 20-foot birdie putt for a 66—matching the best score of the tournament—that he figured would fall short at 14-under 278.



AP Justin Thomas watches his shot during the final round of the Tournament of Champions golf event, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, at Kapalua Plantation Course in Kapalua, Hawaii.

It was the first three-man playoff since the tournament moved to Kapalua in 1999.

"I got very lucky to even have that opportunity," Thomas said.

Schauffele was eliminated with a three-putt par from 100 feet on the 18th in the playoff. Thomas had to watch Reed have two putts at the win, a 30-foot eagle putt on the first extra hole, a 12-foot birdie putt on the second extra hole. Reed missed them both, and Thomas finished him off on the final hole before darkness.

"That's what happens when you win," Thomas said. "Obviously, you have to play well and make some putts and hit some shots. But at the end of the day, you need stuff to go your way. And it definitely did today. And it feels great."

It was more crushing for Schauffele than for Reed, even though Reed had the last chance to win.

Schauffele had a one-shot lead going into the final round and was two shots ahead through seven holes when Thomas went on his big run with golf so pure that Schauffele said, "I'd like to see anyone else try it."

But it was right there for him at the end when Thomas chopped up the 18th hole.

The wind on the Plantation Course is most treacherous on the greens, with players having to guess if a 30 mph gust will knock putts offline or give them too much speed. That's

what cost him on the 18th in regulation, and it cost Reed on the last two playoff holes.

"I should have won the tournament," Schauffele said, pausing to consider how wild the final hour really was. "JT was right there. But with the circumstances, I should have closed it out. I did everything I was supposed to until the last moment."

Reed also spoke to the gusts on his 12-foot birdie to win and 8-foot birdie to stay alive. What bothered him equally—

at least based on the glare he shot to the gallery —was the fan who screamed, "CHEATER!" after he hit his putt on the third playoff hole. Thomas says he didn't hear it, presumably because he was locked into his own moment.

The reference was to Reed scooping away sand to improve his lie in the Bahamas, which was caught on video and shown to him after the round, leading to a two-shot penalty. Reed heard plenty more—and plenty worse—a week later from the Australian crowd at the Presidents Cup.

Thomas was more exhausted than elated, mainly because of the sharp swing in emotions at the end.

He carries momentum to the Sony Open in Honolulu, and perhaps the rest of the year and beyond. Thomas remains No. 4 in the world, but his record since June bears noting. He has not finished worse than a tie for 17th in his last 11 tournaments worldwide.

"It's not an accomplishment getting to 12," Thomas said. "It's an accomplishment winning today. But I'll have fun with my family and celebrate it tonight. And next week, we try to get 13."

CHICAGO— As soon as the Cubs' offseason started, the possibility of a Kris Bryant trade has been one of the main talking points.

However, there has been little substance to any rumors. Various teams have been connected to Bryant, but it sounds like nothing has been close. For example, recent word of talks with the Washington Nationals "have gone nowhere."

One reason for that is because teams are waiting for Bryant's grievance case to be resolved. If Bryant wins, he hits free agency after 2020. If he doesn't, he's under contract for two more years. That's a big difference in his value.

Another big reason is that Josh Donaldson, another former MVP winner at third base, is a free agent. With Donaldson still available, teams looking for a third baseman have an option that

Cubs' asking price for Bryant 'is a joke'

wouldn't require them giving up marquee prospects.

Those are the obvious reasons for why Bryant's trade market has appeared tepid. According to some reporting from NBC Sports Chicago's David Kaplan, there's more to it than that.

"The Cubs' asking price for Bryant is a joke," a former GM told Kaplan. "They want nearly ready major league talent at the level of a Gleyber Torres type or close and there is no chance a team is going to give them a package of those caliber of players."

The Cubs traded Torres for a three-month rental of Aroldis Chapman during the run to the 2016 World Series. Torres has since turned into one of the best young infielders in the game with All-Star appearances in each of his

first two seasons with the New York Yankees.

This former GM also told Kaplan that he doesn't believe Bryant is worth that much anymore.

"I like Bryant but he is not a Top 30 player in baseball in my opinion. He is mediocre at best as a defender at third base. His swing has changed dramatically since 2016 and I question if he is truly 100% healthy. Sure, he has ability and he is a big, strong man but his offensive impact is nowhere close to what he looked like when the Cubs won the World Series."

Bryant's offensive numbers have taken a dip from his stellar 2016 and 2017 seasons when he combined to hit .293/.397/.546. In the two years since then he has hit .278/.379/.496. Those num-

bers are still good, and his 2019 was a step up from 2018 when he missed a third of the season due to injury, but that's still a drop off.

On top of that, Bryant's defensive metrics have taken a dip. Bryant was rated as minus-7 runs saved at third base in 2019. He combined for plus-8 in that category in his first three seasons, but is minus-9 in the last two.

"The Cubs are trying to jump start their team again and while I don't blame them for asking for a ton in return for Bryant, I don't believe they are going to get it," another executive told Kaplan.

If this is accurate, either the Cubs will have to lower their asking price or find another way to shed salary.

What about Javy Baez? Would the Cubs trade him?

Kaplan talked to one baseball executive who said that's not going to happen.

"He is a great talent but he is their most marketable player and I would be stunned if they traded the number one guy they have that connects with the kids in their huge fan base," the executive said. "Can you imagine, with all of the bad press they have been getting over the past 18 months if they traded their number one asset in Baez? No way they are doing that."

Baez is under contract for two more years, just like Bryant (pending the result of his grievance case). Baez is a year younger and, unlike Bryant, appears to still be getting better. The last two seasons have been Baez's best, plus he is a strong defender in the middle infield.

Throw in his growing popu-

larity, the marketability that the executive talks about, and Baez should be a prized asset for the Cubs. The Cubs and Baez have reportedly already opened contract extension talks.

So, even if the Cubs are unable to move Bryant or Contreras (or payroll from somewhere else on the roster), it doesn't seem likely that moving Baez would be an option.

Meanwhile, Darwin Barney isn't done with professional baseball just yet.

The former-Oregon State Beaver has been named manager of the Texas Rangers' Triple-A minor league team, according to a team release.

Barney played high school baseball at Southridge High School before winning back-to-back national championships in Corvallis in 2006 and 2007. Then, he played eight seasons in Major League Baseball for Cubs, Dodgers and Blue Jays.

Sonics still undefeated in TanHoldings caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The 670 Sonics earned two more victories to remain unbeaten in the boys U18 division of the 2019 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament.

The Sonics downed the Ol'Aces 1, 53-45, at the resumption of play at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium last Thursday and then routed the Ol'Aces 2 last Saturday, 61-46, to improve to a 6-0 record. The Sonics are gunning for an elimination round sweep yesterday when they faced the Ol'Aces 3 and regardless of the results of their last game, the division leaders are already assured of one of the four playoff berths.

Versus the Ol'Aces 2, the Sonics foiled their foes' upset bid after rallying in the second

half that started with the former ahead, 24-17.

Khristian Itaas, who did not play in the first half, showed up in the final 20 minutes of play and helped the Sonics fight back after scoring 12 points. Christian Bravo, on the other hand, added 8 markers in the second half for his consistent showing for the Sonics, as he finished with a game-high 17 points.

In their earlier game against the Ol'Aces 1, the Sonics had a good start, leading at 26-18 after the first half to gain enough cushion en route to their fifth win in the competition.

Itaas, Jedial Manalo, and Jeffrey Seo teamed up for the Sonics in the first half after combining for 18 points. They also hit key baskets in the closing minutes of the second half to withstand the Ol'Aces 1's rally and hand their foe its first loss.

Ol'Aces 1 49, Rollers 1 43

The Ol'Aces 1 recovered quickly from its first defeat after outclassing Rollers 1 last Saturday.

Jesstin Laniyo top-scored for the Ol'Aces 1 with his 15 points, while Duncan Laxa also finished in twin digits with his 11 markers. Gregory Deleon Guerrero and Chioni Dela Cruz had 12 and 10 markers, respectively, for Rollers 1.

WOMEN'S DIVISION Baby Ol'Aces 41, Lady Rollers 26

The Baby Ol'Aces whipped the Lady Rollers in the second game in the division last Saturday.

Sedrei Camacho stood out in the Baby Ol'Aces' lopsided victory after firing 21 point, including 9 of the team's last 11 markers. Angel Roligat also had twin digits after adding 10 points.

CTSI 58, Lady Ol'Aces 46

In the other match in the division, CTSI also eased past the

Lady Ol'Aces.

CTSI built a 34-19 victory in the first half and never looked back.

Irish Pagaraao paced CTSI with her 17 points, while Jan Travilla chipped in 13.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Sonics' Christian Bravo takes off for a floater during the second half of their game against the Ol'Aces 2 in the boys U18 division of the 2019 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

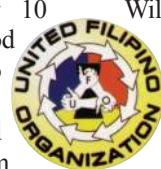
Saipan Vegas gets first victory

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Vegas barged into the win column in the Open Division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League after outgunning Team Lakay, 98-81, last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Five players scored in twin digits for Saipan Vegas for its first victory in three games, while Team Lakay dropped to a 1-3 record.

Leo Galarse and Celio Bisana teamed up in handing Saipan Vegas a 17-point winning margin after making 27 and 26 points, respectively.



They anchored Saipan Vegas' offense to give their team the lead right off the gate.

Bisana sizzled for 10 points in the first period to lift Saipan Vegas to a 20-13 advantage. Galarse contributed 8 markers, 6 of them came from the 3-point area. The duo then combined for 10 points in the second quarter, helping Saipan Vegas keep the lead at the break, 39-36. Team Lakay moved within three at the end of the first half, as Ron Romo and John Williams stepped up in the second quarter with the latter drilling 9 points after being held to one field goal in the opening frame

and the former contributing 6.

However, after a strong showing in the second canto,

Williams was limited to 3 points in the third and Romo went scoreless, allowing Saipan Vegas to pull away. Galarse scored 9 points in the penultimate quarter, while Bisana added 8, lifting Saipan Vegas to a 69-50 advantage.

Saipan Vegas went on to keep the wide lead with J.R. Del Castillo putting the finishing touches on the team's victory. Del Castillo tallied 13 points, the same output Arnold Natividad registered, while Rommel Usi also had twin digits with his 10 markers.

NMI

From Page 28

teams competing in the third edition of the MBC, which was originally scheduled to take place in Guam mid last year, but was pushed back due to the renovations at the baseball field in Agana.

Joining Jose Lizama Jr. on the CNMI crew are A.J., Jeffrey, and Henry Lizama Jr., Fred Songao, Ricardo Dela Cruz, Angel Palacios, Eli Aughenbaugh, Nate Camacho, Nate Smith, Franco Nakamura, Lorenzo Sebaklim, Dennis and Noel Cabrera, Josenio Alarez, Darion Jones, M.J. Sakisat, Frankie Lieto, Poland Masaharu, Michael Muna, and Virgil Secharmidal.

Secharmidal delivered the first run at the bottom of the first inning for the CNMI, which has Tony Rogolifoi, Jose Lizama Sr., and Henry Lizama Sr. as members of the coach staff. The catcher and leadoff batter reached off

Kosrae's throwing error, while Nathan Camacho also scored after their opponents committed a defensive lapse.

The CNMI then failed to hit the board in the second and third inning, but made up for it in the fourth after adding four runs. Jones and Sebaklim each blasted an RBI single and also reached home, while Aughenbaugh and Dennis Cabrera scored the two other runs for the winning squad. Fred Songao recorded the last run for the Commonwealth bets off a single from Nakamura at the bottom of the fifth inning.

The CNMI finished off Kosrae after only six and a half innings, as the latter bungled its chances to score at the top of the sixth. R-Jay Joe was at third base and Junior Nena at first with two outs, but they were left stranded when Palacios caught a fly from Scott Nena at first base.

After its debut win over Kosrae, the CNMI will be

back at the Paseo Stadium today to face Pohnpei at 12nn, while the former hopes to bounce back when it duels defending champion Guam in the 3pm match. Guam, which had its first game against Pohnpei yesterday, ruled the

second edition of MBC after routing Palau, 11-1, in the 2018 finals. The CNMI, which took the inaugural title following a come-from-behind 15-14 victory over Guam, placed third in 2018.

The third edition of the regional competition will follow the same rules—round-robin in the preliminary and page system in the playoffs. The Top 2 finishers after the round-robin play will battle for the first finals berth this Thursday at 10am. The loser will then face the winner in the match between the No. 3 and 4 ranked teams this Friday at 10am for the second and last finals ticket. The championship game is also set for Friday at 2pm.

TWIN

From Page 28

United with the opportunity to fight back. Tristan Raho moved MP United within one with his conversion in the 28th minute and also hit the equalizer in the 34th.

MP United completed the come-from-behind victory following a 2-1 triumph in the shootout. Ian Song and Moshe Sikkel delivered the shots for MP United, while only Chavez scored for TanHoldings.

Joining MP United and TanHoldings in the Top 3 was Shirley's Football Club, which defeated Kanoa, 3-1, in the consolation game. Beneth Haro bagged a pair of Shirley's, while Jurvin Bisek scored the other goal for the squad. Kanoa drew its lone goal from Rooney Gil.

Meanwhile, MP United

dealt TanHoldings another heartbreaker after eking out a 2-1 win in the boys U15 title game of the tournament organized by Saipan Soccer School and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association.

Cody Shimizu and Richard Castro hit the board for MP United with the former scoring in the 12th minute and the latter 10 minutes later. TanHoldings' only goal in the finale was made in the 18th minute, courtesy of Oliver Fajardo.

In the third place game in the boys U15 division, Kanoa-1 dominated Kanoa-2, 17-8. Jaydeen Jose led Kanoa-1's victory after firing five goals, while Markus Toves chipped in four. Christian Camoral also had four goals for Kanoa-2.

After settling for the third place honors in the boys U15 division, Kanoa managed to bring home a championship af-

ter topping the girls U16 event.

Kanoa won over Southern United in the finals, 4-2, behind the three goals of Paulynn Joyce. Joyce had back-to-back shots with her goals in the third and 11th minute and completed the hat trick in the 30th, while Stephanie Flores made the other goal for the champion team after finding her target in the 14th minute.

Chavez and Lilian Podziewski scored the two goals for Southern United and both were registered in the second half with the former lighting up the board in the 28th minute and the latter doing the same nine minutes later.

In the third place game, Shirley's eased past TanHoldings, 7-3.

Katrina Costales recorded three goals to power Shirley's past TanHoldings, which got one goal apiece from Rizza Relucio, Audrey Castro, and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MP United Football Club co-ed U12 players gather for a photo after the awards presentation in the 2019-2020 Holiday Futsal Jam last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex. Joining them in the photo are tournament organizers Lanie Santos, standing left, and Catherine Attao-Toves, standing right.



**Vikings nip
Saints in OT;
Seahawks
oust Eagles**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Lakers
block 20
shots, hold
off Pistons**

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28 TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Rousing MBC debut for NMI



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players and officials of the CNMI National Team pose for a photo at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last weekend before they leave for Guam for the 3rd Micronesian Baseball Classic.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI opened its campaign in the 3rd Micronesian Baseball Classic in style following a 7-0 shutout win over Kosrae yesterday at the Paseo Stadium in Guam.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MP United Football Club U15 players pose with their medals and trophy after beating TanHoldings, 2-1, in the finals of the 2019-2020 Holiday Futsal Jam last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex. Also in the photo are tournament organizers Lanie Santos, standing left, and Catherine Attao-Toves, standing right.

Twin titles for MPU; Kanoa takes one

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club notched a pair of championships, while Kanoa Football Club got one as the 2019-2020 Holiday Futsal Jam wrapped up last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

MP United won the co-ed U12 and boys U15 division crowns, while Kanoa took the girls U16 tiara.



The co-ed U12 division finals had to be decided via shootout, as MP United came back from a 0-2 half-time deficit against TanHoldings to force a draw at the end of the regulation. Kaithlyn Chavez scored in the 12th and 13th minute to give TanHoldings the upper hand before she sat down on their bench for a while, leaving MP

See TWIN on Page 27



Jose Lizama Jr. worked the mound for the CNMI and nearly threw a no-hitter, as he gave up only one hit and struck out eight in a no-relief job to hand the 2016 champion a strong start in the four-nation field. Guam and Pohnpei are the other

See NMI on Page 27

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Jose Lizama Jr., seen here pitching in a local league late last year, led the CNMI's 7-0 victory over Kosrae at the start of the 3rd Micronesian Baseball Classic yesterday at the Paseo Stadium in Guam.

New Year resolution and more training is not always better

Why do I always stress the importance of looking at the bigger picture?

“Diet just 30 days, drop 100 lbs by spring.”

“Six pack abs in two weeks.”

Headlines like these make me cringe. The long haul holds very little interest, so I understand the appeal. Before I was ever in a position to help people I was also easily drawn to them as well. Things aren’t always what they seem. Be pragmatic. If you’re markedly out of shape and overweight, there are no shortcuts and quick fixes.

Stop trying to find one. You’ll have to overcome the challenges just like everyone else.

Q: Can you offer any practical advice for rapid weight



New Year resolution and more training is not always better

loss? I know it's not necessarily a good thing, but I really want to get in shape fast this new year.

A: Before dipping your toes back into the gym this new year, here’s some Gandalf wisdom: your primary aim should be towards establishing the behavior and habits conducive to sustainable weight loss because the real challenge is what you do after the challenge.

If you mismanage the time period after the fact, you could potentially find yourself in a deeper hole than you began with. Consequently, you make it harder on yourself every time you decide to get back up on the horse. It’s a vicious cycle and evident

Ask DRE:

By DRE DELOS SANTOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Dre Delos Santos writes about fitness and nutrition for Saipan Tribune and TAGA Sports. He is a personal trainer at Gold’s Gym. He is featured on fitness sites such as Weight Watchers, T-Nation, and STACK.

with stubborn yo-yo dieters. Assuming you want to get it right this time, you would do well to adopt a discipline you can adhere to long-term.

Q: What's the biggest mistake you see beginners make?

A: It goes without saying you need to apply hard-nosed effort. Unfortunately, most people look at this from a vacuum and overestimate the amount of work they need to be doing. It’s now becoming

clear that you don’t necessarily have to train yourself to the ground, which makes things a bit more practical to the general population. Obviously, there is a certain point where concessions have to be made in order to take it a step further. But on the whole, it’s a mistake to think that deliberately chasing muscle soreness or doing senseless circuits will accelerate your progress.